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I'M NO RACIST, STORMS TORY POLITICIAN

■ BY **MARIJKE COX**



APOLOGY: Cllr
Roger Walkden

A **TORY** councillor has blamed one "politically motivated" individual for the furore that followed a joke he posted on a community forum.

Roger Walkden was contacted by Conservative leader David Cameron's office after his joke about immigrants appeared on the Doverforum.

While some members said they found it humorous, one individual failed to see the funny side and contacted a number of bodies – including Mr Cameron's office – to complain.

Cllr Walkden, who represents the

wards of Maxton, Elms Vale and Priory on Dover District Council, said: "This was politically motivated. The complainant is a Labour supporter and I think they wanted to get me into trouble because of my position as a councillor."

"They have tried to bring me into disrepute, but I really don't think I have done anything wrong."

"I have apologised on the Doverforum and asked for the joke to be removed."

"I will no longer be posting on there as I don't want to get Paul Bolland, who runs the site, in trouble."

The joke, which can still be seen on the site, involves a refugee coming to England and being offered three wishes from a fairy.

After being granted new teeth and a mansion, the refugee asks to "be like the British" and after his wish is granted he loses his new teeth and house, implying that British people are given nothing.

Members of the forum have since blasted the complainant, stating the joke was harmless fun and that the "PC brigade should be ashamed of themselves".

However, Roy Millard, deputy chief executive of Migrant Helpline in Dover, said the joke clouded the real issues surrounding asylum seekers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Picture: REX FEATURES

SEE JOSS A STONE'S THROW FROM HOME

Dover-born soul singer Joss Stone is returning to her roots tonight (Wednesday) to play an intimate gig at the town hall.

The 21-year-old, who was born at Buckland Hospital and lived in Dover until she was eight, will play at Connaught Hall at 7.30pm. She will also be playing at Castle Community College in Deal tomorrow night.

On her website the singer wrote: "I've decided to play some shows at home. Come along, we'll have a laugh."

"I'll be playing new songs from my album Colour Me Free, yet to be released. I'm excited to see how everyone likes it."

Tickets are £15 from www.seetickets.com or www.ticketweb.co.uk.

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ALSO INSIDE

COMPETITION PAGE 15

LETTERS PAGES 16-17

LEISURE PAGES 18-28

BUSINESS PAGE 45

SPORT PAGES 46-47

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Gobstopper's no jaw-dropper

■ BY MARIJKE COX

ARTISTS behind a cross-Channel photography project have defended their project, stating that funding for it has been used to support the town.

Dover Arts Development (DAD), which was set up in January 2006, has been working on Embarkation, which brings together artists from the South East and the Continent to help promote Dover through displaying images of the area in the town centre.

The project is funded by the Arts Council England South East and costs some £70,000.

But since the last image was put up – which showed a gobstopper in white space – some people have criticised the initiative, saying the cash could have been spent elsewhere.

One Yourdover reader said: "I saw, with interest, the photograph of the image entitled Jawbreaker.

"I love art, photos, new and old and in all forms, but this I just do not get."

Another wrote: "So how much did the mugs of Dover cough up for the poster of the gobstopper?"

Ambition

According to DAD partner Christine Gist, the picture, created by Turkish artist Ebru Ozsecen, who stayed in Dover while researching for her piece, sends a message of seduction and represents an element of the area.

Despite the criticism, DAD co-director Joanna Jones said the group was delighted by the amount of interest shown in the Jawbreaker image.

"We would like to put everyone's minds at rest concerning the amount of local money spent on this project.

"The whole scheme was funded by Arts Council England South East and the European Union and actually brought money into Dover.

"Most of the grant was spent locally and used to support businesses.

"DAD also provided work experience opportunities for students in the area and organised workshops at Dover district schools."



TASTY: The controversial photograph Jawbreaker by Turkish artist Ebru Ozsecen

Embarkation has been running for two years and involves the photography commissions 07/08, which sees artists staying in the district and creating high-level contemporary images which are displayed on freestanding signboards in the town.

Another part of the project is Transmettre/Transmit, which is the collaboration between DAD and French arts group Espace 36 where artists have worked with heritage sites in France and the Dover district.

Ms Jones said: "Dover has some specialist schools for the arts – visual arts, music, dance and performance, and many of the pupils will have aspirations to work in a creative field in the future.

"DAD seeks to support their ambition and encourage a wide range of creative practice in the area."

A spokesman from Arts Council England also highlighted the importance of the project.

"The programme emphasises international practice within a community context.

"The grant of £69,696 supported the programme in its entirety, of which the photography commission is one element – artists' residencies and public artworks are also included."

Complaint over forum gag 'was political move'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

and refugees. It perpetuates the myth that they get better conditions than UK nationals, but nothing could be further from the truth.

"Asylum seekers get 70 per cent of the benefit rates, which is 30 per cent below the poverty line.

"If they are granted status in this country, they then become a refugee and they get the same amount as a UK national."

Asked whether he thought refugees living in Dover would now think twice about approaching Cllr Walkden, Mr Millard said: "It comes down to the individual, really, but some may be more wary.

"I don't think Cllr Walkden was intending to be racist, but for refugees it's not helpful if they think someone holds a certain view of them."

Offensive

Cllr Walkden, who is regarded highly in the community for his work in promoting tourism and helping businesses in the town, has so far had no contact from the district council about the matter.

He said: "I received a call from David Cameron's office telling me they had received a complaint, but I haven't heard from the leader of DDC, Paul Watkins.

"Nobody else has said they find it offensive. I am not racist and would never put a joke on the site if I thought it would offend anyone.

"I have unreservedly apologised to everybody who may have seen it, but all I've had is a lot of support from people who agree this was just a political move."

Cllr Ben Bano, leader of the Dover Labour group and chairman of the Asylum Seekers Support Group, said although he didn't think the gag was malicious he thought some people might find it distasteful.

Unhelpful

"I'm sure the joke was not intended to offend anybody, but I think it was unhelpful, especially as we are trying to promote equality and mutual understanding in Dover."

Charlie Elphicke, Tory parliamentary candidate for Dover and Deal, said the matter should be dropped.

"It's important that everyone remembers that Roger has given many years of great civic service and it would be a tragedy if one mistake meant he couldn't continue to do so."

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Aunt's pride at Oscar victories for Slumdog

'Happy for Dev' says newsagent

■ BY MARIJKE COX

THE auntie of Slumdog Millionaire star Dev Patel has spoken of her delight at the success of the film after it scooped eight Oscars, including best film.

Hillie Patel, who runs Bickers newsagents in Easby, near Sandwich, said she was pleased that people could now see a different side to India than the usual portrayal in Bollywood blockbusters.

Danny Boyle's Mumbai-based film shows the life of a young man from the Dharavi slums, played by 18-year-old Dev, who appears on the Indian version of Who Wants To Be A Millionaire.

Some criticism was received from people in India about the film's director Danny Boyle highlighting the impoverished and brutal life of the slums, with many claiming it painted a bad picture of their country.

Hillie said: "In what little we see of India in films, you don't usually see this side, but this is real and it does happen."



OUT OF THE GHETTO: Jamal Malik (Dev Patel) attempts to get the better of quizmaster Prem Kumar (Anil Kapoor)

"It's not just India, though – you get these problems in Africa, Brazil and other countries. "There is some criticism about Danny Boyle not giving the Mumbai children he used in the film enough pay, but I think everything is going the right way for them now."

When the film first hit the big screens, Hillie admitted to Yourdover she hadn't seen it as her two sons, Dev's cousins, aged nine and 13, are too young and she promised to watch it with them.

She said: "I have to say I've seen it now and I'm very pleased. I haven't spoken to Dev about it as he's been so busy. It would be good for my

boys to see it as they were born and brought up in this country and reading about the film has made them enquire about issues in India.

"Dev's grandparents – my parents – are anxious as he is only 18 and they want to make sure he is going in the right direction, but they are still so happy for him."

Asked whether there had been an increase in customers to the shop, Hillie said: "People come and visit from the surrounding villages and I know a lot of old-age pensioners are going to see the film in Sandwich."

"This is what is special about Kent – it feels like everyone's involved."

Bishop leaves after decade

THE Bishop of Dover and Canterbury has announced his retirement.

The Rt Rev Dr Stephen Venner, 64, who has served the diocese for ten years, will step down from his post in November and move to Rochester with his wife Judy.

During his time at the diocese he has undertaken a full range of duties on behalf of Archbishop George Carey, and since 2003 Archbishop Rowan Williams.

He said: "I had no idea when I began this process how very emotionally and spiritually demanding it would be to make a decision about retirement."

"Leaving the diocese and the people I have come to love and admire will be even harder, but I believe that it is right to leave now after ten years."

"It is just the time for fresh gifts of leadership to be shared in order that the spirit can do exciting things here."

Due to his early announcement, moves can be made to appoint a successor and it is hoped a new bishop will be named later this year.



The Rt Rev Dr Stephen Venner

Tearoom exam's a piece of cake for karate kid Hayley

A GROUP for people with learning needs is toasting one of its members who achieved an NVQ in food and drinks services.

Hayley Stevens, 23, joined the programme, based at the tearooms in the Old Chapel in St Margaret's, three years ago.

The scheme, set up by Brian Davenport and Linda James, gave her the chance to experience a real working environment in preparation for employment.

Mr Davenport said: "When we first met Hayley she was very quiet and had no confidence."

"She had been turned down for a job at Tesco after being told she couldn't stack shelves, which had knocked her down."

"But working on the programme here with us, we focused on what she's good at and now she's achieved all this. We're so proud of her."

Mr Davenport and Ms James have now employed Hayley as a paid member of staff at the tearooms on

Saturday after being so impressed with her work.

Hayley said: "I really enjoy working here and can't believe I can do the things I can."

"My favourite thing though, is the friends I've made."

"I'm so much more confident now – I've even started doing karate. I've also lost weight through Weight Watchers ready for my brother's wedding."

Hayley studied for her NVQ Level Two through Canterbury College in Faversham and was assessed at the tearooms.

She said: "I was nervous being watched during the assessment, but it was all worth it."

The scheme at St Margaret's, which works in line with a Government programme, now has five more students taking NVQs.

A deli is also being opened at The Droveaway where the members will work, as well as creating pottery once a wheel is in place on site.

Quake tremors felt near town

THE Dover area has been rocked by tremors after a small earthquake hit the Channel coast.

It occurred at about 2.35pm yesterday (Tuesday), leaving residents of River and Whitfield shaken.

A spokesman for the British Geological Survey said it was measured at 2.8 on the Richter scale and recorded in the same location as the 2007 quake, which had a magnitude of 4.3.

Resident Karol Steele, of Buckland Avenue, said: "It was small – not as large as two years ago – but enough to make the neighbours come out into the street and ask 'What was that?'."

"Ted, my dog, actually barked at it this time – the last one he slept through, but he was a tiny pup that time."

"The ground shook and there was a small rumble. Definitely a quake."

Staff at Dover Town Council, however, said they had felt nothing.

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Operation Cubit is cleaning up again

ABOUT 50 vehicles have been removed from the streets of Dover as the police clamp down on untaxed cars.

Operation Cubit is being run by Kent Police and the Dover District Safety Partnership with the county council and the DVLA.

The scheme has been running for eight years and is responsible for getting rid of more than 3,000 untaxed vehicles in that time.

Any vehicles found or reported as untaxed or abandoned during the operation are checked with the DVLA, then clamped and removed to be stored in a holding area. If a vehicle is not claimed within 14 days, it is destroyed.

A total of 49 vehicles was lifted in the five-day operation.

The Marquis raises a glass to fine wine

WINE-LOVERS are being invited to give their taste buds a treat with a tasting event at The Marquis in Alkham.

Master of wine Stephen Skelton, who established the vineyards at Tenterden, will speak to guests about the wines as they sample eight of England's finest.

A special menu created by head chef Charlie Lakin is being produced to match each flavour.

Charlie said: "Stephen has been making wine for more than 30 years and is a consultant to some of the finest vineyards and wineries across the UK. It's going to be a very informative night."

Tickets for the night, on Tuesday, March 10, cost £55 per person. Phone The Marquis on 01304 873410, or email info@themarquisatalkham.co.uk.

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Join Julie Maddocks at this year's Dover Film Festival. Search 'Dover'

Picture: PHIL HOUGHTON



YOUNG QUEENS TAKE THEIR BOW

Aylesham's court of 2009 has been chosen at the much-anticipated selection evening.

Competitors aged between nine and 16 took part in interviews in a bid to win a place on the court.

The judging panel consisted of Sheila Field, president of Aylesham Carnival Association, Pauline Catterall, sponsor from Just U, teacher Jenny Sutton, Australian model agent Leah Charlwood, Lee McCall of Sheppey Carnival Association and Christine Samson from Canterbury Carnival.

Mandie Sehmbi, from Dover Carnival Association Ltd, and PCSO Katie Parker-Brown were independent adjudicators.

After the competitors showed off their confidence during a public-speaking round, the winners were announced and the court of 2008 stepped down and handed over their crowns.

Rebecca Robson, 16, was crowned Miss Aylesham and Katie Thornton, 13, and Elizabeth Donnachie, 14, her princesses.

Chloe Cosier, 10, was chosen for Junior Miss Aylesham, with Kerrie Bryan, 10, and Lauren Donnachie, 9, her junior princesses. Deputy Junior Miss Aylesham is Alisha Falconer and deputy Miss Aylesham is Danielle Webb.

The new court will attend events all over Kent, Sussex and London over the next 12 months.

Anger of recovering patients being placed in 'care homes'

■ BY MARIJKE COX

DOVER residents have blasted the NHS for placing people in care homes to recover after being discharged from hospital.

The criticism came during one of Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust's roadshows on Thursday last week, when people grilled a panel of health experts on district services.

Intermediate care was one of the topics raised continuously at the town hall, with many calling for beds to be placed in the new £20 million community hospital planned for the district.

Wendy Hansell, who has been campaigning alongside her husband Reg for a general hospital in Dover, said people's dignity was at risk with the current system.

She said: "People who come out of hospital aged only 30-plus should not be placed in a care home to recover. What about their dignity?"

Lorraine Sencicle, who has just been elected to represent the people of Dover as foundation

governor for the East Kent Hospitals Trust, agreed with Mrs Hansell.

She said: "It's not right for people to go in a care home when they are recovering and vulnerable."

Mental health issues were also raised, with concerns that people could suffer depression if not placed in the right setting for recovery.

But the PCT has defended the intermediate care system, claiming that people have misunderstood the term 'care home'.

According to a spokesman, each patient is assessed and if there is no support network at home they try to place them in a home with people of the same age.

The spokesman said: "People have this idea of a care home being filled with old people, but there are all different kinds."

"If it is a young person we are dealing with, we will try to put them with other young

people, but placing people in a home while they recover is always a last resort."

The intermediate care teams are staffed by nurses, therapists, care managers and support workers, who care for patients while they recover from a serious illness or surgery.

The spokesman said: "Wherever possible, they will support people who are discharged from hospital to recover to their maximum potential in their own home."

"If this is not possible or appropriate, the individual may be discharged to a care home, where they have their own rooms and facilities, or to a community hospital."

"They will benefit from added support from the intermediate care team in this setting until they are able to return to their own home or be transferred to a more appropriate, permanent place of residence."

Other issues brought up at the meeting included improved care for people with learning needs and problems with flooding at the proposed mid-town hospital site.

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Town celebrates receiving Fairtrade status... finally

DOVER has achieved Fairtrade status after a long campaign by the town council.

An award was presented to deputy mayor Sue Jones on Thursday evening last week at Maison Dieu House, where all the people involved in the campaign celebrated the news.

Representatives from the groups involved, including Dover Grammar School for Boys and River Parish Council, joined in the celebrations, along with the Rev Dr Michael Hinton, who brought the idea to the council back in 2005.

Since then, a committee set up by the council has been calling upon businesses and church groups in the town to stock products to show their commitment to the cause.

Despite a setback when an earlier application was turned down, the group continued with its

■ BY MARIJKE COX

plans and last week the news arrived that Dover had been named a Fairtrade town.

Hannah Reed, campaign manager for the Fairtrade Foundation, said she was impressed with the work and progress made since the campaign was launched last July.

"This is all about bringing real change to real people. Even the smallest effort can make a real difference and it's great to see so many people getting on board," she said.

Ms Reed explained that using Fairtrade products helped put a stop to the injustices of conventional trade in developing countries which in the past has discriminated against poorer, weaker producers. The scheme gives farmers and workers more control, with companies

being required to pay costs that never fall below the market price.

Cllr Jones and David Hannent worked together on the bid and both said they were thrilled with the announcement.

"The committee worked hard on this application and we are delighted to have been awarded Fairtrade status. We still need to carry on with the work and get people involved to ensure we can get the status renewed next year," said Cllr Hannent.

The council has produced newsletters to promote the cause, as well as a pledge for people to sign. A budget has also been set to help support the project.

News of Dover's Fairtrade status came at the start of Fairtrade Fortnight, which ends on Sunday.

• Email yourdover@kosmedia.co.uk

Skiers sloping off good news for port

RECORD snowfalls on the Continent led to a rise in the number of passengers through the Port of Dover over half-term. The Alps, the Pyrenees, Bulgaria and Slovenia all had heavy snow, causing an influx of skiers heading for the slopes.

Kate O'Hara, head of marketing at the port, said: "A comparison of the same two-week period last year and this year shows a 14 per cent increase in passenger numbers, hitting almost 480,000, and a rise of 15 per cent in cars – that's almost 74,000 in the fortnight."

Brian Rees, P&O spokesman, said: "The snow forecasts tempted many to abandon plans to stay at home. And for those who would normally take long-haul ski trips to the USA and Canada, the prospect of the best skiing in the world on the European doorstep proved a huge draw."

Traffic volumes were helped by the addition of the new LD Lines services, while SeaFrance reported a 28 per cent increase in traffic during the half-term weeks. P&O Ferries recorded many late bookings over the period.



WATT A VERY KIND ACT

The Deal Bandstand Trust has received a donation of £500 from an electrical supplier in Deal.

John Perkins, chairman of the trust, was presented with the cheque by Amber Blackwell, operations manager of Dealec.

Charlie Elphicke, Tory parliamentary candidate for Dover and Deal, attended the presentation as a keen supporter of the trust.

This was the largest donation ever given from a fund set up by Dealec to benefit good causes.

Other charities that have received donations from the company include the RNLI, the Royal British Legion, Cancer Research and local animal charity Hoppy's Haven.

The Deal Bandstand is a memorial to the 11 musicians killed when the Royal Marines' barracks were bombed in 1989.

Advice on how to fight recession

ROADSHOWS are being held across Dover district to help residents and businesses get through the economic downturn.

The scheme is being launched by Dover District Council in partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau and Pensions Service.

The new health and well-being team will be in the Dover pedestrian precinct on Wednesday, March 11, from 10am-2pm; The Undercroft in Deal on Wednesday, March 18, from 10am-2pm; The Guildhall in Sandwich on Thursday, March 26, from 10am-2pm; and at Eastry Court car park in Aylesham on Monday, March 30, from 10am-2pm.

Staff with specialist knowledge and skills will offer help, advice and support on issues including housing, council tax benefits, Jobseekers Allowance and redundancy to employers and employees.

The council is also bringing together business groups to identify needs in the current climate, with proposals being put forward to double the financial help it has available for business rate relief.

A Dover District Financial Inclusion Strategy has been drafted and can be seen at www.dover.gov.uk/community.

For more information about the health and well-being team, phone 01304 872338, or email healthandwellbeing@dover.gov.uk.

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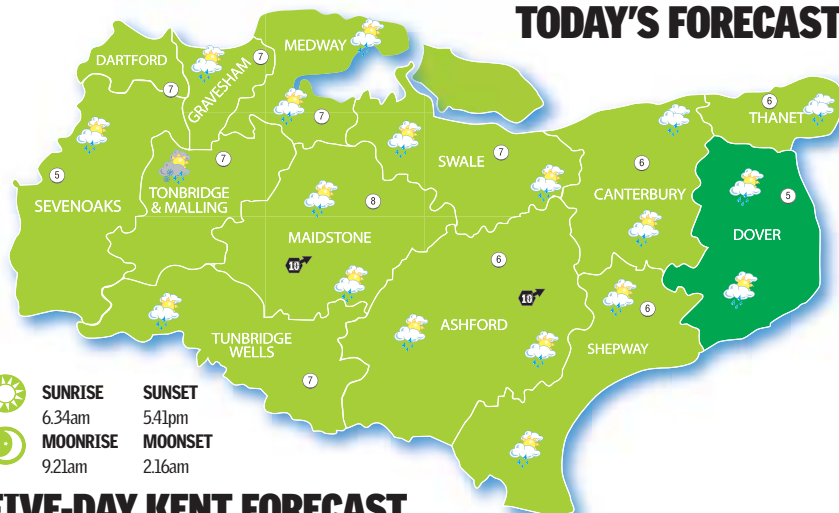
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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	9:02am	5.0m
	Sunday	10:26am	5.4m
Dover	Saturday	7:44am	5.5m
	Sunday	9:00am	5.9m
Dungeness	Saturday	7:18am	6.1m
	Sunday	8:39am	6.5m
Ramsgate	Saturday	8:14am	4.2m
	Sunday	9:30am	4.5m
Sheerness	Saturday	8:50am	4.9m
	Sunday	10:15am	5.2m
Whitstable	Saturday	9:07am	4.5m
	Sunday	10:32am	4.9m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	8°C	Madrid	11°C
Athens	16°C	New York	1°C
Barcelona	14°C	Paris	11°C
Beijing	1°C	Rome	14°C
Bombay	36°C	Sydney	26°C
Cape Town	24°C	Tenerife	19°C
Cardiff	9°C	Tokyo	9°C
Gibraltar	14°C	Vancouver	11°C
Hong Kong	20°C	Warsaw	4°C
Las Palmas	16°C	Wellington	21°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	10°C	8°C	8°C	9°C	9°C	Gravesend	10°C	7°C	8°C	10°C	10°C
Canterbury	8°C	6°C	6°C	8°C	8°C	Maidstone	10°C	7°C	8°C	9°C	9°C
Chatham	10°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	8°C	Ramsgate	8°C	6°C	6°C	8°C	8°C
Dartford	10°C	7°C	8°C	10°C	10°C	Rochester	10°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	8°C
Dover	8°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	7°C	Sevenoaks	8°C	5°C	7°C	7°C	8°C
Faversham	10°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	8°C	Sittingbourne	10°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	8°C
Folkestone	8°C	5°C	6°C	8°C	7°C	Tonbridge	9°C	7°C	8°C	9°C	9°C
Gillingham	10°C	7°C	7°C	8°C	8°C	Tun Wells	9°C	7°C	8°C	9°C	9°C

Foundation status boost for hospital trust services

THE hospitals trust serving the Dover district has been awarded foundation status, giving it greater autonomy from the Department of Health.

Leaders at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust announced the news on Friday last week after a long assessment period with independent regulator Monitor.

Nicholas Wells, the trust's chairman, said: "This is a very positive move for the trust and will help us to continue improving the service we provide to the people of east Kent."

"Successfully coming through Monitor's rigorous assessment process gives formal recognition of the trust as an effective organisation with strong governance and a sound and sustainable financial foundation."

"We have already held elections for the new trust's governing council, which will be meeting next week to begin the work."

Control

"I was delighted at the large number of talented local people who offered themselves for election and I know that they will be a great help to us in shaping the trust's strategic direction."

Foundation trusts were created to devolve decision-making from Government control to local organisations and communities so they were more responsive to the needs of local people.

The trust's chief executive Stuart Bain said: "As a foundation trust we will have much greater control of our own affairs."

"In conjunction with the new governing council and membership [currently numbering some 13,000] we will be able to develop our services in ways that ensure we are aligned with the needs of the local population."

"Also, our standing as an acute trust with both foundation and university trust status – one of the few in England to have achieved this – adds to our prestige and should help us to attract the best staff to work here."

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QUESTION & ANSWER

MARK SCUTCHINGS



Q&A

Mark Scutchings, managing director of Hearbase Ltd, talks to **Marijke Cox** about how his business began, the variation in his work helping people who are hard-of-hearing and how to deal with noise control

Q Can you tell us how you got involved with Hearbase Ltd?

A I have always worked in the field of audiology, first for the NHS and then for a multinational. I started Hearbase Ltd about ten years ago. The company started with two people but now employs 12 people full-time and some part-time staff. I didn't set out to start a business. It developed naturally and has grown steadily over the past few years. We are already the largest independent hearing-aid company in Kent and I would be happy to see more growth, but there isn't a massive expansion plan.

Q What is your role there and what does it involve?

A My responsibilities as managing director are wide and varied. I see patients for two days each week. The rest of my time is taken up with meetings and planning. My main job is to keep everybody else in the company busy. I am always thinking about new projects, how the company can be more efficient and how to offer a better service to our customers. A fair amount of time is committed to training and finding out about new developments. Audiology is a fast-moving industry and we always try to offer our customers the very best of the new technology. In a small company, everyone needs to be multi-skilled. You are just as likely to find me changing a light bulb or unblocking the loo as chairing a meeting. Running a company certainly has its less glamorous aspects!

Q What is the most challenging thing about your job?

A The biggest obstacle is getting people to take their hearing seriously. I am passionate in raising awareness about hearing loss. The generations to come are particularly at risk because they are exposed to so much more social noise. I look at children listening to music for hours at a time at high volume on MP3 players and think that they will end up being hearing-aid customers much sooner than their parents. People often think that technology can fix everything. While hearing-aids are much more advanced and sophisticated than before, they are unable to deliver perfect, natural hearing. It can be hard helping people come to terms with losing their hearing. This is why it is so important to make people aware of how they can prevent putting their hearing at risk.

Q What is the main aim of the organisation?

A Hearbase's main objective is to allow people to make the best of their hearing. So, if someone comes to us with a hearing loss, we can fit them with the latest digital hearing-aid technology. If they have good hearing but are exposed to a lot of noise, we can provide them with specialist hearing protection. We also advise companies on how to manage noise in the workplace and protect staff's hearing. Our work is now involving us in the risks of social noise

from music in clubs and bars. We work with the entertainment industry and help protect staff's hearing by advising on safe levels of noise.

Q What is the best thing about your job?

A I get immense satisfaction from doing something that I know is making a positive impact on people's lives. So many people have a job where it can be difficult to really see the end result. In my job it is very easy to see if we have been successful because we make people hear. The value of hearing cannot be underestimated and is often taken for granted. For those who are hard of hearing, shopping, travelling and even enjoying a social life can be difficult. It can be an extremely isolating experience. To help someone improve their hearing is very rewarding.

Q What work have you carried out in the Dover district?

A In Dover we have worked with P&O Ferries. We've made custom hearing protection for some of its workforce and tested hearing for signs of noise damage. We've also worked with the NHS to reduce the hearing-aid waiting time from over two years to below 18 weeks in the Dover area. This is in addition to our private hearing-aid service, which has been operating in Dover for many years.

Although I have worked all over the UK, I was born in Dover and I like the idea that I still have links with the town.

CROSSKEYS COACHES



2009 DAY TRIPS AND HOLIDAYS

MARCH		ADULT	CHILD	APRIL		ADULT	CHILD
Sun 8th	London Eye, Carvery & Thames Cruise	£54.00	£50.00	Sat 18th	Disneyland Paris	£60.50	£52.50
Wed 11th	Churchill Museum & Cabinet War Rooms New	£25.00	£15.00	Sun 19th	Cadbury World & Planetarium New	£41.00	£36.00
Sun 15th	Dickens World	£21.00	£16.50	Tues 21st	Montreuil	£25.00	£23.00
Tues 17th	RAF Museum London	£18.50	£14.00	Thurs 23rd	Boulogne	£23.00	£18.00
Thurs 19th	Stitch & Craft 2009 New	£26.00	£22.00	Sat 25th	Calais & Cite Europe	£19.00	£15.50
Sun 22nd	Windsor & River Cruise New	£22.00	£18.50	Mon 27th	RHS Wisley	£21.00	£12.00
Thurs 26th	Boulogne	£23.00	£18.00	Wed 29th	Ikea & Lakeside Shopping Centre	£11.00	£9.00
Sat 28th	Bruges	£31.00	£27.00	HOLIDAYS			
Tues 31st	Ideal Home Show	£27.50	£22.00	Oxford & Blenheim Palace			
Sat 4th	Ghent	£29.00	£26.00	Fri 13th March 3 Days 2 Nights Half Board			
APRIL		ADULT	CHILD	Warners Gunton Hall Coastal Resort			
Mon 6th	Afternoon Cite Europe Trip	£13.00	£10.00	Mon 16th March 5 Days 4 Nights Half Board Including Latin Ballroom Dance Lesson			
Thurs 9th	Tower of London New	£29.00	£19.00	Warners Sinah Warren Character Hotel			
Sat 11th	St Omer	£27.00	£22.00	Mon 20th April 5 Days 4 Nights Half Board			
Wed 15th	London Eye & Thames Cruise	£36.00	£32.00	Including Portsmouth & Chichester Day Tours			

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SITING OF NEW NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS

How sites will be chosen and how you can have your say

EDF Energy is one of the UK's largest energy companies and now incorporates British Energy.

We intend to nominate land next to Dungeness B power station into the Government's process to identify sites suitable for new nuclear power.

No final decision has been made on possible sites and it is important that members of the public and local communities know when and how to have their say.

The industry has until 31 March 2009 to nominate sites. In April the Government will publish the nominations and you will then have a month to provide additional information you think would be relevant to the assessment of the site. Later in the year the Government will run a full consultation on the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement and list of potential sites.

Once the National Policy Statement is in place it will be up to developers to take forward any specific proposals to construct new nuclear power stations through the planning process. This process will involve further consultation.

To find out how to make your views heard on sites for new nuclear power stations and sign up for more information go to www.nuclearpowersiting.decc.gov.uk



Eurostar service launched from Ashford to Brussels. Search 'Eurostar'



New Demelza children's hospice unveiled. Search 'Demelza'



Bin the Bag countdown launch in Maidstone. Search 'bag'



Grant for restoration of Kennington war memorial. Search 'memorial'



Fire drill carried out at Canterbury Cathedral. Search 'cathedral'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

yourkenttv.co.uk

News merger turns off ITV's viewers

BY SIMON ROBINSON

HUNDREDS of TV viewers across Kent have vowed to switch off ITV Meridian after the station merged three news areas into one.

The ITV Meridian South East show has been combined with the Thames Valley and South shows into a single "pan-regional" broadcast.

The super-region reaches a population of eight million people, 12 county councils, 86 MPs, 60 district councils – from Dover to Oxford and Medway to Portsmouth – and seven international airports.

Kent viewers have taken to ITV's message board in their hundreds to complain about the move.

Angela Fyfe, one of more than 500 viewers to hit out at the new show online, wrote: "The news area covered now is far too large. Nobody in the Kent area is interested in Southampton, West Sussex and so on, and I am quite sure all viewers feel the same."

"You will lose many loyal local news watchers by these changes, please think again."

"That Ginger Guy" added: "Cringeworthy television at its best. I don't bother with ITV with news any more."

"It's dreadful that you thought of saving money by making local news no longer local or watchable."

"PGC" wrote: "I have tried to be patient and give the new-look programme a chance. But I'm afraid it has lost not only its identity, it has also lost its sparkle, personality and charm."



BROAD-CAST: Fred Dineage and Sangeeta Bhabra bringing you news from Southampton and Basingstoke

"The audience is there for a local news programme – but this isn't it. If ITV want to save money, this is not the answer, why drive your audience away?"

ITV's online editor Jonathan Marland said the combined ITV Meridian news bulletin – with East and West segments – had come as a result of "economic realities".

He wrote on the ITV website: "The changes have all been made against a background of massive upheaval in British broadcasting. In a nutshell ITV had an obligation to make regional news as part of the original conditions of its broadcasting

licence. But those conditions have been relaxed as a result of the huge number of digital stations now competing for advertising revenue, and the credit squeeze."

"This is all part of a big national debate about public service broadcasting and who should pay for it. The problem is that PSB is expensive and cannot be maintained on a purely commercial basis."

"The Government is promising to come up with a solution soon."

"In the meantime economic realities have forced changes across the whole PSB landscape."

University of Kent opens up a world of study in Brussels

The University of Kent markets itself as the UK's European University. It has partnerships with colleges in Germany, Spain, Austria, France and for more than ten years it has been running its own small campus in the political heart of Europe. Reporter **ED HILL** paid them a visit.

ONE small floor of an office block in Brussels is a hive of academic achievement that reaches out across the entire world.

The small institution caters for around 200 students keen to make a career in the world of international politics and diplomacy.

The city is the ideal location for the University of



CONTACTS: Marty Gaal Kent's School of International Studies due to its connection with many of the world's largest political organisations, such as the EU and NATO.

John Macgregor, dean of the school, said: "We have been here for ten years. It started off with a dozen students so it has had tremendous growth."

The courses run at the institution specialise in international relations and law, as well as many other topics. All the courses are aimed at post-graduate students.

Most of the students that attend the school come from overseas, with the majority coming from America and Canada.

Marty Gaal, 35, from Vancouver, said: "I had been living in Asia for six or seven years and needed to come back to do a PhD and I wanted to come to Europe. To find an English speaking university in Brussels met all my requirements."

"The course here has meant I have been able to make lots of contacts. I worked with the European Parliament and a consultancy firm."

The MA courses generally run for one year and have expanded to include conflict analysis, international economics and migration studies.

The University of Kent has also announced it is setting up courses in humanities for postgraduate students in Paris.

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Thursday 19th March 3pm–8pm



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Karen, SKC student



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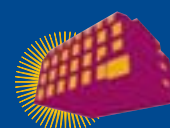
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**Ashford School of Art
and Design**

Feast your eyes on foodforkent.co.uk



■ BY CHRIS BRITCHER

KOS Media – publisher of this newspaper and the award-winning Kent on Sunday – has this week launched a major new campaign for 2009 to help boost the county's economy.

Our Buy Local Produce campaign is spearheaded by the launch of www.foodforkent.co.uk a one-stop shop allowing you to order local online, and have it delivered to your door.

We have teamed up with a host of local suppliers to make choosing fresh vegetables, fruit, fish and meat a breeze.

What's more it's cheaper than you may expect and offers the



added benefit of every penny helping boost our local economy.

It forms a key part of our campaign which looks to raise awareness of shopping locally for delicious, locally produced, food and drink.

The campaign is being supported by Produced in Kent – the non-

profit organisation supported by both Kent County Council and Hadlow College – which promotes and assists local suppliers and products.

Doug Wanstall is one of the county's best known farmers. From his land in Aldington, near Ashford, he has developed a reputation as one

of the county's foremost suppliers – particularly in free range eggs.

He explained: "Look at France. They hardly know there's a recession there. They all drive French cars, holiday in France, eat French food, drink French wine. Its national economy supports itself.

"If we did that in Kent – if we visited the tourist attractions here, we buy local food, we drink local wine, in short, if we used all the services we have here, we, as a county could pull ourselves out of this recession quite quickly.

"I believe by supplying the likes of FoodforKent.co.uk we are helping redesign the food supply chain in Kent."

It follows hot on the heels of our Go Green – Read It Free On Screen campaign – which promoted online editions of our range of award-winning newspapers and supplements saving paper and making our free newspapers even better value.



Basket price comparison

Sample baskets contain: Granary bread, two pints milk, 4 x 150ml yoghurts, 4 x Spitfire Beer (500ml), 500g Red Grapes, 1kg Gala apples, 1kg Conference pears, 4 x oranges, 1 x large mango, 1kg clementines, 2kg potatoes, 1kg onions, 1kg carrots, 1 x Savoy cabbage, 1 x red cabbage, 1kg broccoli, 500g purple sprouting, 1 x cauliflower, 600g chicken thighs, 500g pork sausages, 250g back bacon, 500g braising steak. Date: 24 February 2009. Source: mysupermarket.com. Closest match applied. Excludes Express and Metros. Excludes delivery charge. Red number indicates price difference.

So easy to order online

YOU can start shopping for delicious, fresh local produce right now; and it couldn't be simpler.

Visit www.foodforkent.co.uk and start browsing the hundreds of items we have available.

There are vegetable boxes and fruit selections, grown right here in the county. Fish, fresh from the sea, or beer and wine fresh from the chiller cabinet; the choice is yours.

Click on the items you want and then add them to your basket. All your details are kept securely and within moments you can be shopping and supporting Kent suppliers. With delivery times to suit you.

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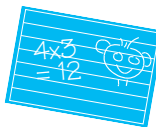
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TESTING, TESTING... The Labskills Schools Dynamic Lab Manual allows wary trainees to carry out virtual experiments

Experimental teaching begins in a virtual lab

TRAINEE chemistry teachers can soon overcome their fear of experiments in the classroom with a new virtual lab made possible by Pfizer.

The pharmaceutical giant is using its Discover Chemistry programme, which invests £1.5 million into science education over a three-to-five-year period, to help PGCE students on school placements.

The Labskills Schools Dynamic Lab Manual lets trainees carry out virtual experiments before entering the classroom, allowing them to get used to the procedures they will have to show their pupils.

They will also be invited to give ideas on how they could incorporate it into their teaching.

Pfizer has helped fund the e-learning tool, which will be provided free to all chemistry trainee teachers, with the Royal Society of Chemistry in collaboration with the University of Bristol.

Dr Tony Wood, vice-president and worldwide head of medicinal chemistry at Pfizer in Sandwich, said the scheme would allow trainees to be better equipped to meet the needs of the industry.

"Positive experiences in practical chemistry at school are key to influencing the paths of many would-be scientists.

"Discover Chemistry aims to capitalise on the excellent education work that many institutions and groups are developing.

■ BY MARIJKE COX

"We bring their ideas and resources together to help expand successful schemes like LabSkills.

"In research-based companies such as Pfizer, there is a growing demand for scientists to have strong problem-solving and experimental capabilities.

"LabSkills could revolutionise the way practical chemistry is approached in schools."

A recent Ofsted Success in Science report showed that schools focusing clearly on how science worked, with practical and investigational aspects, were more successful at teaching the subject.

But the learning of practical experimental skills is an area under threat due to concerns over new teachers not having the confidence to teach practical lessons like in the past.

Former Tomorrow's World presenter Kate Bellingham, recently appointed as the national STEM careers coordinator, said: "With this software I was able to 'blow up the lab' quite safely, learning how to avoid the same mistakes in reality.

"As a former teacher myself, I know LabSkills will add an extremely valuable new dimension to the study of chemistry by helping reinforce the importance of scientific rigour and of health and safety, while being informative and engaging."

• Register at www.rsc.org/LabSkills.

BREAK TIME

'Proud' head retires after 12-year stint

THE head-teacher of Sandwich Technology School has announced his retirement after 12 years in the post.

Richard Wallis, who joined the school in 1997, plans to leave by the end of 2009.

In a letter to parents, Mr Wallis spoke of his honour at being head-teacher for so long and his pride at the recent Ofsted inspection which gave the school an 'excellent' rating.

He said: "I have always been proud and privileged to be the executive head-teacher of Sandwich Technology School and the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection is testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone connected with our school – both past and present.

"I will do everything in my power to maintain the highest possible standards here and to make the transition from my leadership to the leadership of my suc-

cessor as positive as possible and with minimal turbulence in the life of the school."

Certificates boost pupils' confidence

PUPILS at Dover College have been commended for their achievements during a special assembly at the school.

Children aged three to 11 were given awards and certificates to recognise their successes throughout the term.

Heather Miller, head of infants and juniors, said: "Celebrating the children's successes is all part of the whole package here at Dover College.

"Developing the children's confidence and individual talents is essential, but it is very important to let them know how pleased you are with them.

"Everyone enjoys it, including the parents and the teachers, so what better way to finish off the week during Friday assemblies?"

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This week's writer asks for some public responsibility as a personal tragedy unfolds



Why we must back off to let tragic Jade die with dignity

THE blanket media coverage given to Jade Goody's health in recent weeks has made nothing but disturbing reading.

Regardless of your views on Jade for misdemeanours gone by, the terrible tragedy of her terminal illness makes her deserving of nothing but our sympathy.

Her predicament and its coverage has sparked a rise in the number of women checking for cervical cancer and that can only be a good thing.

Yet the national tabloid media's desire to highlight Jade Goody's plight now appears to have morphed into a rather gruesome countdown to her death.

Without question, the former Big Brother contestant has made no effort to shield her life from the glare of the spotlight.

In fact, she courted it – and with good reason. After all, the media is prepared to pay for

access to such stories, and if the money is to go into a trust fund for the financial future of her sons, who would want to criticise a mother's natural instinct to protect her children once she is gone?

But there must come a point where someone's dignity at this stage of their life must be protected.

And if Jade – or, more to the point, her advisors – is unable to decide when that is, the media and, indeed, we as consumers of news, must make that decision.

There is a fine line between highlighting a story and simply taking advantage to become rather bizarre voyeurs. I suspect we are on the verge right now of overstepping that line.

We do not need to see this young woman actually die before our eyes. We do not need to photograph and record her every final moment.

This is a human tragedy and regardless of an unquenchable desire for fame and publicity, we, as a society, need to say enough is

enough. This is not through a desire to be protected against life's inevitable conclusion. Nor is it a desire to shield ourselves from the appalling sadness of seeing someone's life and soul slowly drip away; for it is not unusual

It is a desire for dignity. A desire for Jade Goody not to end her life as so much of it has been conducted, as a puppet for other people's purposes, be that making money or selling magazines.

Jade is the epitome of modern-day celebrity. Catapulted into the national consciousness by an appearance on a reality TV show, her talent an apparent desire to reveal every part of herself in pursuit of fame and the perceived answers that brings. Yet she deserves, in her darkest hour, her dignity. And her children deserve that dignity, too.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering, contact the editor, **Dave Mairs**, on 01303 817022, or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Dover blogger, then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of about 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town, log on to www.yourdover.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourdover, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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You can help!



The Kent LINK launch event

The Kent LINK is an innovative new local watchdog for health and social care in Kent. We are looking for volunteers with spare time to:

- Be part of a visiting team to NHS and social care premises
- Be part of a panel to decide what issues the LINK should investigate
- Represent the LINK on special interest groups.

Expenses will be paid to successful volunteers.

This is your exciting opportunity to influence the way your health and social care services are delivered in Kent.

To apply or find out more: e-mail info@kmn-ltd.co.uk or telephone 01303 297050 or SMS Text to 07976 596913. Closing date for expressions of interest: 16 March 2009

www.thekentlink.co.uk

Central Office

Kent LINK, Unit 24 Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4RH

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As well as this fabulous prize our team of energy-saving experts provides some top tips on how to save money on your energy bills and help the environment:

- Insulation – draw curtains at dusk to stop heat escaping and reduce draughts
- Washing – avoid drying washing on radiators as it makes your boiler work harder and wastes energy
- Cooking – use just enough water to keep vegetables covered and use a lid
- Appliances – turn off your TV as leaving it on standby wastes energy
- Kettles – use a jug kettle with a water gauge and only boil the amount of water you need.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Age Concern Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR.

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TALK TIME

ALAN TAYLOR

...of Forget-me-not War Graves and The Battlefield Exploration Team, which sets up trips to war graves for relatives who can no longer travel unaided.



Have you always lived in the Dover district?

I was born in Dover in 1946 in Albany Place. My father moved to the Midlands after the war and that's where I went to school. I moved back to Dover when I left school and worked on Sealink boats and East Kent buses as a clipper and joined the Royal Army Medical Corps.

After the Army I went into nursing at Buckland Hospital and worked at other hospitals all over the country until I met and married my wife from Stockport. We then moved back to Dover in April 1993. My three children all went to school in Dover and now my five-year-old granddaughter also goes to school at Aycliffe.

Can you tell me about Forget-Me-Not War Graves and the work you carry out?

Forget-Me-Not War Graves started about six years ago. It was set up to take people to visit the war graves of their loved ones who could no longer travel on their own. There is no charge for this as we believe we are giving something back to those who gave their all. There are now seven British members from Dover and 11 in Ypres in Belgium called The Diggers. We are now known as the Battlefield Exploration Team.

We will still take anyone free of charge to visit their loved one's grave or monument, but most of the time is now taken up exploring the battlefields for lost souls.

We as a team are also volunteers of the Dover War Memorial Project. Maggie Stephenson-Knight and Simon Chambers, who run this wonderful website, have given us a lot of inspiration to carry on this great work, in helping others to never forget what these brave boys of Great Britain and other countries did for our freedom.

YOUR LETTERS

Follow other towns' lead to beat far right

Before I comment on Gary Wright's blog last week, may I just point out to readers that my letter regarding Lydd airport *etc* last week was, of course, one held over from some weeks before.

It was perhaps apt, though, given the recent news of a further three to four months' delay in the planning decision due, in most people's view, to the airport's own lack of supplying all relevant data in the first place.

The unexpected printing of the letter also appears to have come as a blow to certain others.

I simply refer readers to my previous letters on that subject and that having made my point I have, allowing for the following, moved on.

In reply to Mr Wright, while I have some sympathy for his call for some caution and reflection after the Swanley vote, it should surely be noted that while many people, if not most, may not like to be told what to think, politicians, religious leaders and the media do it in various forms all the time.

Indeed the right-wing media, while they denounce and expose the far-right groups, regularly seem also to help foster and maintain outdated views with screaming headlines about migrants and others which, when you look into the facts, are usually an over-reaction.

However, what to do about challenging the advance of the far-right?



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Let's recall first that Swanley was also affected by the usual low-turn out and far-right activists being bussed in early to distribute their pernicious nonsense, catching the main parties on the hop.

The task, then, is to follow the other towns and areas that have taken successful action to

counter the extremists.

This includes places like Oldham, where a leading councillor in a national paper suggests, with apologies for borrowing it, the following: "Tackling them in the elections is the straightforward bit.

"I'd say: don't ignore them; expose their unpleasant policies;

but don't let them hijack the agenda.

"Debate the real local issues with those who oppose you but who also care. Keep the debate on solutions and the far-right can be shown up as emperors with no clothes."

While the trouble can be that such groups thrive in difficult times and on people's genuine problems, the antidote is to take the long slog to tackle them.

If people believe and see their local mainstream councils, councillors and other non-extreme parties and people like independents or the Greens all doing their best in this regard, then protest voting would likely not be needed.

In Shepway, as elsewhere these days, we very rarely see, if at all, our elected town and district councillors outside election periods and the occasional flyer.

Surely it is time for a change and while I feel I have tried to do my bit recently, as an individual, to follow the Oldham example, it must be for the mainstream parties themselves, and their members/supporters, to become a lot more active in knocking on doors, both before, during and after election periods from now on, while producing the policies and actions that truly address people's concerns.

Ray Duff
Folkestone

We need reservoirs, not house meters

I refer to Andy Cadier's letter of February 11. It is now going to be compulsory to have water meters in Kent because, I understand, the water companies lobbied the

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Government to make Kent officially a dry county.

Why? Nothing to do with being dry – has anyone ever seen the River Dour dry up except when the water companies messed with the water?

They can give hundreds of reasons that we should have them, but at the end of the day it's about making money.

This county has been sinking under water over the last two poor summers, but nature sorts itself out – we have had dry summers and we have had wet ones.

The easier solution is to build new reservoirs, not install meters.

L Prescott
Dover

Thanks for donations to water campaign

I would like to thank the customers of Folkestone & Dover Water Services who have given so generously to the WaterAid campaign 'Give Water, Give Life, Give £2 a month'.

Since 2002, an amazing £45,000 has been donated and as a direct result of this support WaterAid has been able to help 3,000 people gain access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education.

Clean water is essential for life, but 884 million people in the world do not have it, and a further 2.5 billion are without adequate sanitation.

Almost two million children die every year as a result of diseases

caused by unclean water and poor sanitation.

Since its establishment in 1981, WaterAid has helped more than 12 million people in Africa and Asia. With your ongoing support they will be able to help even more.

Once again, thank you

Sue Past

Southern Region WaterAid Committee

I will fight for better hospital services

I am writing to make it known that I have been elected to represent the people of Dover district as a foundation governor of the East Kent Hospitals University NHS Trust.

I will continue my fight to establish the best possible community hospital services for Dover and the surrounding district.

I hope this appointment will put an end to the destructive activities of the self-seeking politicians who have, since May 9, 2008, done everything in their power to block what I have fought so hard for.

Lorraine Sencile
Dover

Low council tax rise a Tory smokescreen

As always at this time of year, the Conservatives claim they have kept council tax down, while making savings and maintaining services.

They also claim they manage to do this despite getting so little funding from central government. Their claims, as always, are spurious.

The bulk of our council tax goes to Kent County Council (£1026.27 out of £1,382.06 in Dover district).

The Conservatives, who dominate KCC, are imposing what they call the lowest-ever recorded rise, of 2.44 per cent.

They are doing this because they know the Government will take action if they go above five per cent. More importantly, they are keeping the council tax percentage rise low this year because there are county council elections in June.

A glance at the Conservatives' record will show that in election years they come up with a low council tax increase and then we pay for it the following year.

They are also keeping council tax rises low this year by keeping staff pay down for the lowest paid while ignoring calls for a review of pay for those on six-figure salaries.

They could make savings by getting rid of pet projects like Kent TV and HealthWatch. At the same time, they are reducing funding to, for example, the already under-funded youth service.

And despite all the protestations about being one of the lowest district council tax rates in the county, Dover has been racking up the charges on everything from hand-line fishing (up 50 per cent) to rat-catching (from nothing to £42).

Mike Eddy

Labour Leader of the Opposition at KCC

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COOL RIDER: Two days of free excitement are on offer as bikers compete for the Big Sky Beach title on the golden sands of Margate

On yer bike

Head down to the sands to watch the races as riders compete for the title

PREPARE for some high-octane action on the sands when the QRA Margate Big Sky Beach Cross Weekend gets under way.

Spectators are promised an even bigger and better event than ever before, with lots of attractions and thrilling racing to keep people entertained both days.

Racers will be battling for glory on the one-and-a-half-mile Moto Cross-style course, built with the help of Ovenden Plant Hire in the sands beneath the promenade. Spectators can enjoy excellent viewing of the action as they look down on the racers.

At the time of writing, the busy schedule of racing is due to start with a parade of riders making their way along the promenade to the beach at 9.30am on Saturday and again on Sunday, setting the wheels in motion for two days of exciting competition.

Practice begins at 10am, followed

QRA MARGATE BIG SKY BEACH CROSS WEEKEND

Saturday and Sunday, March 7-8
Margate Main Sands

by qualifying heats or racing from 10.30am. The country's top adult and youth quad and adult solo riders will be chasing the coveted Margate title at full throttle, with events running until 5pm both days.

After all the excitement of the races, the Grand Finale will be held on the Sunday. The top riders from each quad class will race each other to determine the fastest racer on the sands. The presentation of awards is due to take place at 4.30pm on Sunday.

On Saturday night, DJ Stumpy will host a social evening for competitors and their guests at the Smiths Court Hotel in Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, from 8.30pm.

The QRA – Quad Racing Association – and Margate Town Partner-

ship have been working hard to create a fun weekend for all the family.

There will be trade stands for petrol-heads to indulge their passion and lots more off-beach entertainment. If the exhilarating racing leaves anyone in the mood for some adrenaline-fuelled thrills, there will be fairground rides to keep the screams and laughs coming.

Best of all, admission to the event is free. With no charge for spectators, the QRA Margate Big Sky Beach Cross is a recession-beating day out for all the family.

Since it began in 2007, the event has proved phenomenally popular with racing fans and attracted a lot of media interest.

With only riders and officials having access to the sands, every inch of the beach can be used to create an exciting and challenging course in a relatively small area.

For more details about timetables, the event's history and other helpful information, visit the website at www.margatebeachcross.com.



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MADAME BUTTERFLY

Saturday, March 7
Cineworld, Ashford



THE tragic story of Madama Butterfly is performed by the Metropolitan Opera this weekend.

Opera fans can take advantage of a remarkable opportunity to see the New York company in action, the latest in a series of live high definition broadcasts to

Cineworld cinemas. Cristina Gallardo-Domas returns to play the title role in the late Anthony Minghella's lavish production, opposite Marcello Giordani.

When Lieut Pinkerton of the US Navy rents a house in Nagasaki harbour, he finds that the price includes servants and a geisha wife called Cio-Cio-San, also known as Madame Butterfly. Pinkerton goes through with the marriage ceremony,

but he is not sure how he feels about the geisha and pledges to one day take a 'real' American wife.

Three years later, Madame Butterfly is devastated when Pinkerton returns with his new wife Kate.

She agrees to give up her small son, on the condition that Pinkerton comes back to fetch him.

Tickets cost £14.70/£11.70. Book at www.cineworld.co.uk or call 0871 2002000.

ALL STAR SUPERSLAM WRESTLING

Friday, March 6
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



TOP wrestlers from both sides of the Atlantic will go head-to-head in the exciting family show, All Star Super Slam Wrestling.

'Vampire Warrior' Gangrel has assembled a crack team of wrestlers from the US and other countries to take on our home-grown talent. Lining up with him is 'Man Mountain' Rocky Rainier, a Puerto Rico-based giant standing 6ft 9in tall and weighing in at nearly 20 stone.

Londoner James Mason leads the home front, including 'Liverpool Lads' Robbie Brookside and Frankie Sloan, Kid Cool and 'Xtreme' Dean Allmark and pocket whirlwind Little Legs.

The world-class skirmishers will be supported by action from the ladies, including Sweet Saraya, Lancashire stunner Lisa Fury, Erin Angel, 'Norfolk Doll' Brittany Knight and Midlands ace Minx.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £12, concession available, or £35 for families of four. To book, call 0844 8471776 or see www.leascliffhall.org.uk.



DEIRDRE CARTWRIGHT

Friday, March 6
Harbour Cafe Bar, Margate



ACCLAIMED jazz artist Deirdre Cartwright will be visiting Thanet with her trio this week.

Cartwright is one of just a handful of female jazz guitarists who are internationally noted for their talent, with critics keen to praise this remarkable artist. On the release of her latest album, Tune Up Turn On Stretch Out, The Observer's critic commented 'if there is a more complete guitarist in contemporary music than Deirdre Cartwright, I'd like to know who it is'.

Following in the footsteps of her grandmother, an opera singer and pianist, Cartwright learned to play the piano as a child. But this moved to second place in her affections when she discovered the guitar.



Picture: PAUL ISHERWOOD

In the 80s she became a familiar face to television viewers by presenting the BBC's Rock School, which attracted two million viewers each week and subsequently screened worldwide. Cartwright will be per-

forming with Alison Rayner on double bass and drummer Simon Pearson. Doors open at 7.30pm and tickets cost £25, including a three-course supper. To book, drop into the Harbour Cafe Bar or call 01843 290110.

DOVER LEISURE

Learn more about a life of crime on day course

SPEND a day exploring criminology with Kent Adult Education.

Anyone interested in sociology will also enjoy taking a specific look at criminology. The one-day course is being held at the Dover Discovery Centre in Market Square on Saturday, from 10am to 4pm.

Admission costs £22. To enrol or for details, call 0845 6065606 or see www.kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk.

Go crazy for former Ozzy tribute band's gig

GET ready to rock when Crazy Train performs the best of the genre in Dover.

The band started out as an Ozzy Osbourne tribute but now plays classic rock from 1969 to 1990. Hear more at www.myspace.com/crazytrainuk.

Crazy Train will be playing at the Park Inn in Park Place on Saturday. For more details about the venue, call the pub on 01304 203300.

Enjoy a funky night out with Left of the Dial

SOUL, funk and jazz/blues are on offer when Left of the Dial perform.

The band has high musical standards and their shows offer a mix of exciting music that makes them stand out from the crowd. Find out more at www.left-of-the-dial.co.uk.

They will play at the Louis Armstrong in Maison Dieu Road on Friday. For more details, call the pub on 01304 204759.

Tell our readers about your planned events

WOULD you like to see your concert, production or event on these pages?

Send details – including dates, times, ticket prices and how to book – to jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk or by post to the address on page 2, at least two weeks before preferred date of publication.

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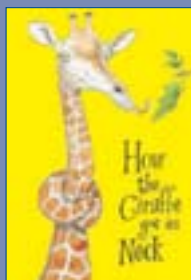
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yourstyle



BEFORE AND AFTER: Reporter Erica Jones when she arrived at the Saks Hair and Beauty salon (inset); and (main picture) after her pampering session, which included foot massage, facial, head massage and haircut

Pure Saks appeal

THERE are worst ways to spend my morning than meeting Emily and being carefully guided through an array of potential beauty treatments.

After a 'lifestyle consultation' – which involved discussing my bad eating habits, 'beauty regime' and problem areas (dark circles under tired eyes), Emily recommended the rather exhilarating-sounding anti-ageing visible brilliance facial. It would, she explained, help my eyes while also doing lots of lovely things to rejuvenate and tone the skin. Who was I to complain?

Now, call me naïve, but I always thought a facial was, well, face-centric... yet before anything touched my cheeks, I was treated to a quite remarkable foot massage.

If ever there is a way to get someone relaxed, this is it. It was a hot-lime foot-cleanse and my tired, abused feet were very grateful for the attention. I was almost sorry when Emily stopped to begin the work proper.

The facial itself used the popular range of Elemis products, a British brand which, it claims, can 'awaken the senses' while making you look and feel like a million dollars.

It involved a variety of beautiful-smelling creams, before a cool, but strangely pleasant, facemask was smoothed over my face. While this was left to set, my head was massaged before the mask was gently peeled from my face, taking all the dead skin away with it. A second mask was applied to nourish the new,

fresh-er skin with nutrients and vitamins to leave me with a refreshed glow to my complexion. The treatment was complemented with a hand and arm massage to give time for all that goodness to soak in.

By the time it was over I was impressed to notice a real healthier glow to my skin – especially my troublesome eyes.

Regardless of that, however, the experience was worth every penny (treatments cost £59-£65) just for the inner peace and calm it brought me.

As someone who's used to simply asking for her split ends to be tidied up, I found it a novel experience to have a full consultation, with careful questions regarding my own hair-care regime before we even began talking about the cut.

Like most, I'm reliant on my straighteners, and manageress Sam highlighted the impor-



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This year Saks Hair & Beauty celebrates 35 years in business. We sent reporter **Erica Jones** to discover the secret to its success and endure several hours of pampering all in the name of investigative reporting.



TOTAL RELAXATION: Elemis products were used for Erica's facial and left her skin with a noticable healthier glow, especially around her "troublesome" eyes

and manageress Sam highlighted the importance of treating my heat-damaged locks with TLC and recommended my session began with a professional Kerastase instant ritual mask (£6) to help revive the hair. This was applied whilst I was having my hair washed (with added bonus of a head massage thrown in). We also discussed what I wanted from my haircut (£37-£45). Not ready for anything too different, I asked for a bit of a tidy up. My hair can suffer sometimes from being a bit uncontrollable, and Sam was able to suggest layers would help tame it – a move which has proven to be beneficial and my

hair is much easier to style.

During all the snipping we further discussed my hair care regime, with Sam providing me with tips for nurturing my hair through the winter months. Not only are intensive cleaning products (she recommended the L'Oreal professional range) and a good heat protector spray a necessity, but it turns out washing my hair daily is a little too much, a welcome thought when it means I can have an extra five minutes in bed in the morning.

I can also confidently add that as I write five days later my hair, rather remarkably, still feels as soft as when I left the salon, so that mask really did do the trick.

SAKS has two salons in Kent, both offering a range of treatments and staffed by experienced beauty teams. From facials to waxing, hair removal to hair extensions, they have treatments to suit most budgets.

Our reporter visited the Maidstone branch, which is part of the David Lloyd Fitness complex in Lockmeadow. The other branch is in Kings Hill.

Saks Hair & Beauty, David Lloyd Fitness, Barker Road, Maidstone, ME16 8RG. www.saks.co.uk To book an appointment call 01622 663233. Or Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kings Hill, ME19 4UA. Tel: 01732 843 445.

DOVER SHOPPING

It's essential you check out these super deals

IMPROVE your image as well as your health with a range of offers on some lifestyle essentials available at Superdrug.

The store's own brand of A-Z multi-vitamins and minerals is now £4.99 for a bottle of 90, or 30 tablets of Glucosamine and Chondroitin are available at £7.49.

Naturals Cranberry and Pomegranate Shower Gel is £1.49, down from £1.99.

To find out more, go to www.superdrug.com, or visit your nearest store in Sandgate Road, Folkestone.

Time for teens to get a New Look for spring

TEENAGE girls can get the latest funky styles in the newest range to New Look.

Girls will be racing to the store to pick up a pair of skinny-fit jeans for just £16 and a neon city print tee for £8. Cutesy bow-design ballet flats are £12, or canvas plimsolls £8, depending on your style.

Finish off the look with a black knitted boyfriend cardigan for £14 and a chain-link headband, £4. Visit www.newlook.co.uk, or go to your nearest store in High Street, Deal, or Biggin Street, Dover.

Do the smart thing for your wardrobe today

DRESS up with Bon Marche's David Emmanuel range.

The store is offering smart, desirable outfits in sizes 10-22 which are perfect for a spring wardrobe. Ladies can pick up a fully-lined black jacket for £35, a cotton blouse for £16 and a machine-washable and fully-lined sateen mac for £40.

For more information or to see the complete range, visit your nearest store in Biggin Street, Dover, or go to www.bonmarche.co.uk.

Curl up with an Oscar winner from WHSmith

OSCAR-winning book titles are available at WHSmith.

The book of the massive British feel-good hit Slumdog Millionaire by Vikas Swarup is now £7.99 in paperback. The Reader, the film of which saw Kate Winslett win best actress, is also £7.99. Take home a copy of The Curious Case of Benjamin Button for £5.99.

For these and other great reads, get down to your nearest WHSmith store in Biggin Street, Dover.

Bargains are a Brit of alright at music store

TITLES by BRIT Award-winning artists like Duffy and Kings of Leon are on sale at HMV.

The store is selling Duffy's Rockferry CD for just £4.99 and the KOL album Because of the Times is the same price. Elbow's outstanding Seldom Seen Kid disc is also a steal at £4.99 and Sound of Girls Aloud is now just £2.99.

Boogie on down to HMV in Bouverie Place, Folkestone, to please your ears, or go to www.hmv.com.

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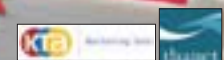
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Bands prepare to beat it out in festival play-off final

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

FOUR bands will contest a festival-themed battle of the bands final next weekend – with the winner earning the right to play alongside Brit pop heavyweights Supergrass.

The winner-takes-all final will take place at Folkestone's new Quarterhouse venue on Saturday, March 14.

Dartford-based rock outfit Burgundy and Canterbury folk-rockers Waterhorse will join The Little Philistines and Monday Street, both of London, in the play-off for a place on this year's Sellindge Music Festival main stage bill.

Thoughts of sharing a backstage arena with the likes of Supergrass are but one performance away for one of the bands.

And they know the pressure to perform is now on.

Waterhorse frontman Terrence Reis said: "Whoever takes the final will have had to fight for it and play their hearts out."

The Little Philistines added that sharing the line-up with Supergrass would be a dream come true, saying: "They inspired more than one of us to pick up the guitar for the first time."

"It would be an honour to share a stage with Gaz' chops."

The Battle of the Bands contest was staged at the Frenchman in Folkestone over two nights in January and February.

The four finalists were picked from ten competitors, who had been hand-picked from hundreds of hopeful applicants.



Festival manager Benjamin Wells said the standard had been exceptionally high.

He said: "All ten bands that competed gave an amazing live performance."

"Deciding on the finalists was incredibly difficult but we made the right choices and have a truly special line-up for the final."

Sellindge Music Festival – now in its second year – takes place from Friday, June 5 to Sunday, 7.

The festival line-up already boasts the likes of Mickey Slim, Eddy Temple Morris and Brandon Block.

No acts have as yet been confirmed for the acoustic or introducing tents and Supergrass are the only band unveiled as playing the main stage.

For more information visit www.sellindgemusicfestival.co.uk.



BATTLE OF THE BANDS: Waterhorse (top) and The Little Philistines (above) are two of the bands hoping to feature in the Sellindge festival line-up with Supergrass

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MUSE ON THIS: The Suspects live at The Elephant & Castle in Ramsgate



THE ETHER: Lucy Kitt speaks to Charley Vines about how her music career began



TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Los Salvadores – 14/3 Ivy Leaf Sheerness
- 2 Kayley Weller – 21/3 The Half Moon Hildenborough
- 3 The Suspects – 11/4 The New Inn Minster-in-Thanel
- 4 Dorcia – 17/4 TW Forum Tunbridge Wells
- 5 The Suspects – 10/5 Churchills Ramsgate

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ON GENERAL RELEASE

GRAN TORINO (15)



Walt is a racist Korean War veteran. When Thao, the teenage son of his Asian neighbours, is caught trying to steal Walt's car, he is forced to work for Walt to regain his family's honour.

THE INTERNATIONAL (15)



Clive Owen stars as Interpol agent Louis Salinger, who, together with Assistant District Attorney Eleanor Whitman, sets out to bring the world's most powerful bank to justice.

FRIDAY THE 13TH (18)



A lone traveller heads to the woods in search of his missing sister. There he hooks up with a group of college kids planning on a weekend of partying. But their fun soon turns into a nightmare.

Isla's shopped around for her first leading lady role

■ BY SHEREEN LOW

SHE may play a shopaholic in her latest film, but Isla Fisher says her real life doesn't imitate her art.

"I don't really enjoy shopping, I have to be honest. There's always so many people in the store, and so many choices," she says.

"More often than not, because I'm often shopping out of necessity, rather than it being a fun way to spend the afternoon, it's just me with a mission – in and out, and pick out whatever it is that I need."

The 33-year-old mother of one says she has little in common with her new character, fashion addict Rebecca Bloomwood in Confessions Of A Shopaholic, adapted from Sophie Kinsella's chick-lit bestseller.

In fact, you're more likely to catch Isla flashing the credit card for culinary gadgets than for the latest wardrobe must-have.

"I do like bags and shoes, but I'm a bookaholic at the moment, especially cookbooks," she says, grinning. "I seem to always be collecting cookbooks. It's wish fulfilment."

Just like die-hard shoppers who sometimes keep unworn purchases with their tags intact, the Australian actress finds herself in the same situation with cookbooks.

"I'm embarrassed to admit, there are a couple that haven't been opened. I buy Asian cookbooks and it's hard to find the ingredients – that's my excuse. I'm just lazy," she adds.

Confessions Of A Shopaholic marks the former Home And Away star's first major starring role on the big screen, although she has previously wowed audiences in Wedding Crashers, Horton Hears A Who and Hot Rod.

"I've been acting for a really long time and I felt, finally! I was as prepared as I could be,"



HOME AND AWAY: Isla Fisher's career has transformed

she says. "I knew I was responsible for the tone of the movie in a way I hadn't been as a supporting cast member."

"I knew the character was very beloved and I didn't want to disappoint the readers, but as nerve-wracking as it was, once I got going and started shooting the movie, I was so physically exhausted – I was breast-feeding every three hours – and trying to juggle every-

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thing that it just became about endurance."

Isla, who is engaged to British comedian Sacha Baron Cohen, gave birth to baby Olive in October 2007. She admits her fiancé is responsible for getting her the parts that have shaped her career.

"He got me into comedy. I was auditioning for dramatic roles and not having much success, and he said to me 'You're really funny, you should do comedy'. It was those words that inspired me," she recalls.

Isla has a dream to collaborate with her husband-to-be: "I would love to work with Sacha. I think he's the funniest man in the world. It'll be amazing. But not right now. At the moment I'm not working and I don't feel like working. I'm really lucky to be in a position that I am."

CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC

Certificate PG



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Page 44



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► Cat on a Hot Tin Roof 12A

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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

FRIDAY NIGHT WITH JONATHAN ROSS
BBC One, 10.35pm, Friday

AL MURRAY'S MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDER
ITV1, 9.30pm, Friday

THE controversy surrounding Jonathan Ross and Russell Brand last year was only ever going to do one thing – increase interest in both personalities and their subsequent projects.

While the furore claimed Brand's radio job, the more established star managed to get off with a suspension and keep his multi-million-pound contract alive.

The return of his late-night talk show, which is by far Britain's most popular, was eagerly anticipated.

Many wondered if the host would be able to continue with his risqué humour and close-to-the-bone interview style, which has proved so successful, or whether he would tone down matters.

Perhaps it was a question that was always going to be a non-starter, because Ross really does know only one style, which I'm sure will please his legion of fans.

What has been a welcome change, though, is that his maddening habit of constantly talking about himself has dropped away a little.

During the last series, and the many that have gone before, it had become a show about the man himself rather than the guests.

Almost every conversation inevitably ended up being about Ross rather than who was sitting beside him, no matter how big the star.

With all the fuss now dying down, the show seems to have benefited from the break and a more humble,



TALKING IT UP: Ross has toned down his chat show antics after finding himself in hot water

slightly less self-obsessed Ross is actually a much better interviewer.

And, after all, that is what a chat show is supposed to be all about.

So if the cloying banter had led you to switch off before, the show is worth revisiting for a second look.

I can't say that Al Murray's Pub Landlord character ever really split my sides.

Mildly amusing maybe, but not the genius comic creation that some would have you believe.

Murray has scored his own sketch show on the back of the continued success of the pint-pulling, xenophobic anti-hero, though, and it started last week with a patchy affair that showed both dashes of promise and disappointment.

As a Perrier Award-winner, Murray can count the likes of Steve Coogan and Lee Evans among his peers, but it will be interesting to see if he can throw off the shackles of his best-known character, show he is more than just a one-trick pony and pull off a more varied endeavour.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
DON'T be surprised if romantic sparks fly between you and someone you meet over the next few days; they're attracted by your unusual outlook on life. If you're already in a relationship, your partner will see a pleasant change in the way you act think and love.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
LOOKING back on a difficult relationship puts your current situation in perspective. You're starting to see a trend. By avoiding the sort of people who have made your life miserable, you'll reach the lifestyle you've always desired. It's important to steer clear of martyrs.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
RECONSIDER the values you have held dear for the past few years. It's possible they are no longer practical or realistic. Be ready to explore different points of view. Going back to the religious and cultural practices of your ancestors could throw a light on your views and values.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
YOU have a rare opportunity to go back and correct some old mistakes. A female employer may be very impressed with your work. Don't be surprised if she offers you a good job. It's also possible that an old boss will ask you to come back into the fold.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
MONEY that was owed to you some time ago could finally be repaid. Use it to get something you've always wanted, but didn't dare buy. You're long overdue for some luxurious treat that you don't necessarily need, but desperately want. If you're stumped for ideas, ask a loved one.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
GETTING back in touch with an old group of friends will be lots of fun. These people will remind you of a time when you had much bigger dreams. Maybe this is a sign you need to champion some of those goals anew. You're not the type who can rest on their laurels.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
IT'S a good time to look at your finances and think about your future, especially if you're in a relationship. You need a nest egg to feel safe. Given this need, it's wise to open an account in just your name. You can still contribute to a joint fund, but having your money own is important.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
TAKING up a creative project you left ages ago is a wonderful idea. You hate leaving things unfinished. Getting back into the habit of writing, painting, or playing music will awaken something deep inside you. You can't afford to let this side of yourself grow stale.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
YOU can get back to your fighting weight, it's just a matter of discipline. Post an attractive photo of yourself in a prominent spot. Every time you catch sight of this image, you'll be reminded of your goal. Arrange to give yourself a small reward each time you reach a target.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
YOUR boss may review your job description so don't be surprised if you are presented with a whole new set of responsibilities. They might not involve much creativity or imagination. Perhaps this is a sign you need to move on to greener pastures.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
SOMEONE from the past could make a comeback into your life. Work out whether this will be good for you. After all, you've made tremendous progress since you parted company with them. You must admit, you have a tendency to put your needs aside for the sake of others.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
GOING through photo albums and mementoes will bring back some great memories. You have the opportunity to forge the life you always deserved and desired. Get into the habit of treating yourself to things you missed out on when you were younger. Make up for lost time.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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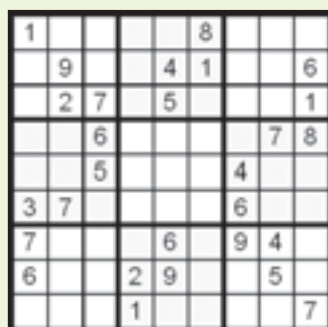
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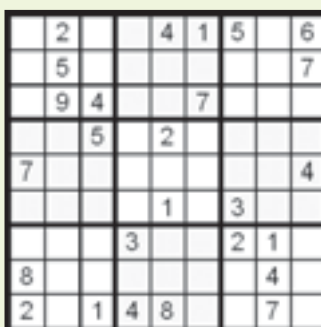
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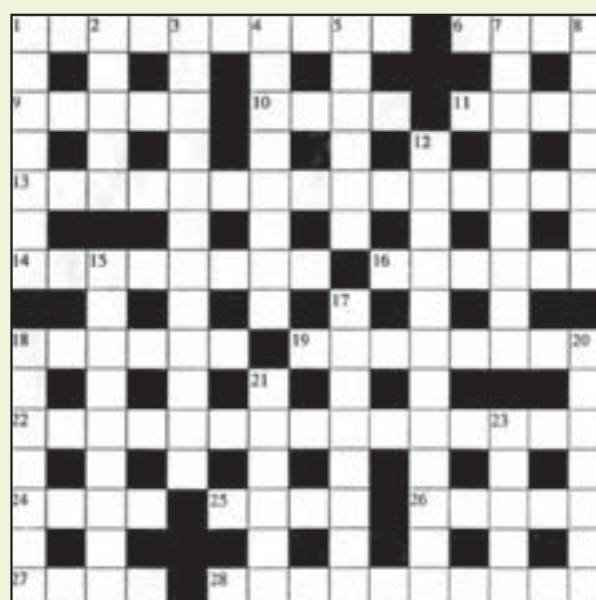
ACROSS

- 1 Two requirements for the game (10)
 6 William's account (4)
 9 In disguise upper part of exhaust (3,2)
 10 This ran unsuccessfully (4)
 11 Basil, say, had some sherbet (4)
 13 Safely stored in gaol (5,4,3,3)
 14 Clean below the line (8)
 16 More correct-sounding scribe (6)
 18 Caprice by Virginia and Gareth (6)
 19 Invoice for earlier one, say (8)
 22 Among the medals during preceding quarter presumably (2,3,5,5)
 24 Girl had half a lump twice (4)
 25 Old from the year 500! (4)
 26 A doctor in the British Isles initially had a deer (5)
 27 Not about, stuck, puzzled with pointed tooth (4)
 28 Missive that's uncalled-for (4-6)

DOWN

- 1 Sent, say, for bunch of flowers (7)
 2 Place almost fixed (5)
 3 Where to sell things out of the country (6,6)
 4 Born lazy, involved with heraldry (8)
 5 UK, alas, exchanged capital! (6)
 7 Creakiest sort of performer at the rink (3-6)
 8 One attempting to influence the small hall hesitantly (7)
 12 Unrewarding version of a blueprint (12)
 15 Drug one's put underneath this computer (9)
 17 Was chairman before team started drifting (8)
 18 Shortly have piece inserted into small bloodvessel (7)
 20 Retailer did not start arranging workshop (7)
 21 Succession of clinking sounds in catchy rhyme (6)
 23 Send timer off (5)

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QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Long-eared American hare (4-6)
 6 River Thames at Oxford (4)
 9 Small medieval fiddle (5)
 10 Warships (4)
 11 Rotate (4)
 13 Action that will lead to conflict (9,6)
 14 Greenhouse (8)
 16 In flower (6)
 18 Outwit (6)
 19 Quarter-circle (8)
 22 East African antelope (8,7)
 24 Frame of mind (4)
 25 Poultry bird (4)
 26 Adored (5)
 27 County in western Ireland (4)
 28 Castle defence (10)

DOWN

- 1 Biblical city (7)
 2 Small party (5)
 3 Seesawing toy (7-5)
 4 Outlawry (8)
 5 Originate (6)
 7 Nervous Pa (anag.) (9)
 8 Ray (7)
 12 Excellent thing or person (5-7)
 15 Collection of poems (9)
 17 One-storey house (8)
 18 Most favourable (7)
 20 Altered (anag.) (7)
 21 Done in a building (6)
 23 Very angry (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No76

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC SOLUTION No76

ACROSS: 1 Anjou 4 Made sure 8 Pick of the bunch 10 Off-limits 11 Egypt 12 Ayow 13 Unzipped 17 Meteoric 18 Halt 22 Skull 24 Eyestrain 25 Question-master 26 Infernal 27 Yodel. DOWN: 1 Amphora 2 Jack Frost 3 Utopia 4 Matrix 5 Dressing 6 Souvenir 7 Rocky 9 Stud 14 Play-acted 15 Coalesce 16 Limekiln 17 Mist 19 Tendril 20 Fennel 21 Steady 23 U-turn.

QUICK SOLUTION No77

18 Optimum 20 Treadle 21 Indoor 22 Luvit Bobby-dazzler 15 Anthology 17 Bungalow 5 Invent 7 Supernova 8 Sunbeam 12 Jemsho 2 Cabal 3 Rocking-horse 4 Banditry Loved 27 Mayo 28 Drawnbridge. DOWN: 1 22 Thompson's gazelle 24 Mood 25 Fowl 26 Orangery 16 Abloom 18 Outfox 19 Quadrant Navy 11 Spin 13 Collision course 14

ACROSS: 1 Jack-rabbit 6 Isis 9 Rebec 10

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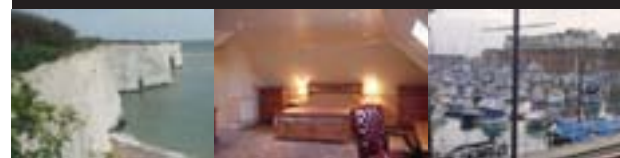
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Escape to the coast of tranquillity

BY CHRIS BRITCHER

IT would be easy in this day and age to write Cornwall off as something of a victim of its own success.

It is, after all, hugely popular courtesy of warm Atlantic air and some dramatic, craggy coastlines.

But it has something of an image problem; of being awash with surfers hurtling around in Scooby Doo-style camper vans and its housing stock being snapped up by the second-home brigade. It has given fuel to its critics who say its magic is diluted by a torrent of newcomers.

Yet while in the summer the narrow streets winding down to picture-postcard fishing villages set amid ragged rocks and bathed by turquoise waters become a mass of hot metal as cars compete for a slice of tarmac, off-season it retains a charm which is quite unique.

And, despite its fame, it has enough nooks and crannies in which it remains possible to escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Take The Lugger Hotel. A weak-armed child's stone's throw from the water's edge, the 17th century inn has long been entertaining visitors. It will come as little surprise it was once a smuggler's cove – hidden as it is in a bay surrounded by steep cliffs.

It nestles at the very foot of tiny Portloe on the Roseland Peninsula in Truro, 12 miles from St Austell. Its white-washed walls gleam against the lobster pots and boats which fisherman use to land their catch just yards from the kitchen door. It feels so remote. You can't even get a mobile phone reception here; which in this day and age is praise indeed.

And it delivers a slice of style and luxury without any of the pomp and ceremony which can make some hotels almost intimidating.



Photos CHRIS BRITCHER

RETREAT: The Lugger Hotel (right) is found at the water's edge in a beautiful, secluded Cornish cove

Our room, in a converted boathouse a 30-second stroll from the main hotel building, was a mass of spotless creams and whites – the linen deep and rich, the décor perfect for the spectacular setting outside your window.

This is a walker's paradise. Coastal routes wind their way up the cliff sides, providing perfect views across the deep blue waters and breathtaking scenery. The town itself, however, offers little other than unspoilt charm.

Remarkably, locals estimate about 70 per cent of the pretty cottages in Portloe are second homes. An evening stroll to the Ship Inn nearby is done in almost complete darkness and silence as darkened homes line the five-minute route. It's a little eerie, and rather sad if truth be told.

The small shops which have long since closed their shutters for the final time have stopped being the heartbeat of the this pretty village. Now The Lugger fulfils that role;

expanding into nearby properties to offer a varied range of accommodation.

Strapping on your walking boots for a stroll is the ideal way in which to build up an appetite for a meal in the low-ceiling, wooden-beamed restaurant. It is truly a gourmet delight. The daily changing menu boasts fresh caught fish and seasonal vegetables that almost throb with taste and freshness.

There's even a growing range of spa treatments on offer for the guest wanting to indulge in the ultimate in relaxation. An hour being pampered amid the candles and music before taking in the clean, crisp air outside is very much the icing on the top of a quite wonderful, self-indulgent cake.

What's more, with the Eden Project just 40 minutes drive away and miles and miles of coastline to explore, Cornwall may just need to go back on the must-visit map. And The Lugger should be the must-book hotel.



Travel details

Chris Britcher was a guest of The Lugger Hotel. He stayed in a deluxe room with sea views and a daily rate of £250 for double occupancy and inclusive of breakfast, three-course dinner, and VAT. Special weekend break rates are available, as are three night midweek rates.

The Elemis range of spa treatments start at £40 and include special treatments for men and women.

For details of the hotel and full details of costs, see www.luggerhotel.com or call 01872 501322.



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PROPERTY NEWS

Wide-ranging market study gets under way

THE Office of Fair Trading has launched its market study into home buying and selling, following two months of discussion with interested parties on its scope.

The study will take a comprehensive look at the market for home buying and selling services. It will consider:

- Competition on price and quality between service providers, principally estate agents.

- Prospects for entry by new business models, including internet-based.

- Whether the regulatory framework provides the right balance between protecting consumers and ensuring the market remains open to competition and innovation.

- Relationships between estate agents and other service providers such as mortgage brokers, surveyors, solicitors and other professional advisors.

The study will cover the UK, while recognising the significant differences in how the market works in Scotland.

The OFT intends to complete the study before the end of 2009. For more details, visit www.offt.gov.uk/homes.

Average house price falls £28K in a year

THE average house price is now £156,753, down almost £28,000 on January 2008. This represents an annual decrease of 15.1 per cent.

In London, the average price fell 14.1 per cent annually to £306,183.

It is the 17th month in a row where the annual rate of change has fallen, in contrast with 21 months of uninterrupted increases in the average annual rate of change between December 2005 and August 2007.

The most up-to-date figures available show that during November 2008 the number of completed house sales fell by 67 per cent to 33,404 from 100,730 in November 2007.

In London only 3,504 house sales were completed in November 2008 compared with 12,719 in November 2007 – a fall of 72 per cent. For more information and to view the latest statistics, visit www.landregistry.gov.uk/houseprices/

Agents confirm growing first-time buyer activity

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

FIRST-time buyers are edging out of their shells and tentatively beginning to venture into the offices of estate agents.

They are the key to any property recovery. If first-time buyers are not buying, chains simply can't develop, let alone be completed.

But now the National Association of Estate Agents is reporting many of its members are seeing more first timers.

All that needs to happen now is for the banks to lose their Scrooge image.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown has said he wants to see the end of 100 per cent mortgages, which will make life even harder for first-time buyers, who will have to show their deposit funds have not been borrowed and are pure savings.

Mr Brown has also been told stamp duty should be scrapped for all but the most expensive properties to ease the burden on new buyers. And Northern Rock, virtually nationalised this time last year, has announced it will be lending up to £14 billion over the next two years – more welcome news for the market in general.

Peter Bolton King, chief executive of the estate agents' association, said: "Our figures show there is huge demand for property from first-time buyers, who are increasingly visiting estate agents, registering their interest and searching for property."

"These figures demonstrate they are being frustrated at the final hurdle because lenders are not making mortgages available."

"First-time buyers are crucial, not only to the housing market, but the entire economy. More must be done to help them."

And John Oakley, the chairman of the association's east Kent branch, said he too was seeing the start of some sort of recovery.

He said: "Locally there is a marked increase in first-time buyers registering with our member firms."



OPEN DOOR: Falling prices are enticing first-time-buyers after years of being unable to get a foothold on the ladder

"With the reduction in house prices, they perceive now is a good time to get on the housing ladder."

"Houses are now affordable, but first-time buyers are being frustrated by the difficulties in getting a mortgage, with lenders looking for ever larger deposits."

"If the first-time buyers are not helped and

encouraged to take that first step, the rest of the market cannot get moving. Banks and building societies must stop putting obstacles in the way and start to release funds."

"The housing market is one of the main drivers of the economy and when houses start selling it has a positive knock-on effect to many other sections of the community."

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We are acting for the mortgagee in possession and have received an offer of £95,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Bairstow Eves Countrywide are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £70,000 for 184 Clarendon Place, Dover, CT17 9QF. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Bairstow Eves Countrywide, 27 Market Square, Dover on 01304 201806 before exchange of contracts.

DOVER



£60,000

One bedroom ground floor flat with courtyard garden. No chain.

DOVER



£75,000

Two bedroom end of terrace house with double glazing and garden. No chain.

DOVER



£80,000

Two bedroom first and second floor maisonette with gas central heating and direct sea views. No chain.

DOVER



£89,995

One bedroom maisonette with double glazing, gas central heating, courtyard, direct sea views. No chain.

DOVER



£110,000

Four bedroom terrace house with two reception rooms and gardens to front and rear.

DOVER



£119,995

Three bedroom semi detached family home with double glazing, gas central heating and garden. No chain.

AYCLIFFE



£129,995

Three bedroom terrace house with two reception areas, double glazing, gas heating, rear garden.

ST MARGARETS AT CLIFFE



OIEO £150,000

Two bedroom semi detached house with double glazing, gas central heating and garden.

DOVER



OIEO £155,000

3 bedroom detached house in Maxton with double glazing, gas central heating and garden. Viewing recommended.

DOVER



£159,995

Two bedroom ground floor apartment in sought after sea front development. No chain.

DOVER



£249,995

Substantial four bedroom terrace home with three reception rooms in Castle Ward district. Viewing highly recommended.

WHITFIELD



£249,995

Three bedroom detached bungalow in sought after location with gardens and garage.

RINGWOULD



£300,000

Recently redecorated throughout this four bedroom detached cottage in rural location offered for sale with no chain.

Folkestone 01303 259211

folkestone@bairstoweves.co.uk

CAPEL-LE-FERNE



£55,000

A bungalow especially for the over 50's comprising: entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, double bedroom, bathroom/WC.

FOLKESTONE



£64,950

Viewing is recommended for this modern purpose built first floor flat. Security entry phone. No chain. central heating.

FOLKESTONE



OIEO £88,000

Two Bedroom First Floor Flat, Lounge /Fitted Kitchen Diner, Gas Central Heating, Viewing recommended.

FOLKESTONE



£89,995

A maisonette comprising: entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom /WC, central heating, no chain.

FOLKESTONE



OIEO £97,000

Viewing is recommended to appreciate this retirement apartment that has been refurbished, offered with no chain.

FOLKESTONE



£99,950

First floor flat, communal entrance hall, entrance hall, lounge/diner, three bedrooms and bathroom/WC.

FOLKESTONE



£105,000

Maisonette, entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen/diner, bathroom/WC and three bedrooms. central heating.

CHERITON



£105,000

Semi-detached house, entrance hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom/WC.

FOLKESTONE



£119,500

The property is well positioned for all local amenities and offers some sea views from the first floor.

CHERITON



£139,950

Viewing is recommended for this two bedroom house. Recently re-wired and a central heating system installed.

FOLKESTONE



£145,000

3 storey mid terrace house, lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bathrooms/WC's, four bedrooms and separate WC.

FOLKESTONE



£147,500

End of terrace house, entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen/breakfast room, utility area, 5 bedrooms.

FOLKESTONE



£149,995

Recently decorated ground floor flat, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom/WC and balcony.

FOLKESTONE



£185,000

Viewing is recommended for this unique style family home, one/two reception rooms, fitted kitchen.

HAWKINGE



£199,995

Viewing is recommended, versatile chalet bungalow. The property has mixed residential & commercial usage.



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DURBAN CRESCENT £129,995

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FOLKESTONE ROAD £140,000

Three bedroom mid-terraced house. Gas central heating. Double glazing. Lounge/diner. Breakfast room. Garden room. Rear garden. Ground floor cloakroom. Viewing recommended.

Dover Office 01304 207099


KINGSFORD COURT £80,000

Warden assisted one bedroom first floor flat. Detached annexe. Lounge/diner. Kitchen. Bathroom. Convenient location.

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MARKLAND ROAD £175,000

Well presented. Off-road parking. Three bedroom semi-detached family home. Sitting room. Kitchen/diner. Gas central heating. Double glazing. Established rear garden. Loft room.

Dover Office 01304 207099


MILLAIS ROAD OIEO £120,000

Favoured Charlton area. Bay fronted terraced house on the level. Three bedrooms. 27'0 lounge/diner. Kitchen. Bathroom. Level garden. Off-road parking.

Dover Office 01304 207099


ST MARGARETS HOLIDAY PARK £99,950

Detached bungalow. Two bedrooms. Double glazing. Heating system. Leisure facilities. Village location. Viewing recommended.

Dover Office 01304 207099


WESTBURY ROAD OIEO £115,000

Two/three bedroom house. Two reception rooms. Kitchen/diner. Gas central heating. Double glazing. Utility room. Enclosed rear garden. No chain.

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FOLKESTONE £54,950

One bedroom upper ground floor flat. In need of modernisation. Lounge/kitchen/bathroom. Chain free.

Folkestone Office 01303 250757


FOLKESTONE OIEO £82,500

Three bedroom terrace house. NO ONWARD CHAIN. Ideal investment or first time buyer. Central location.

Folkestone Office 01303 250757


FOLKESTONE £135,995

Four bedroom terrace property. Cul de sac location. Two reception rooms. Ideal family home.

Folkestone Office 01303 250757


CAPEL-LE-FERNE £174,500

Two bedroom end of terrace cottage. Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom. Attractive rear garden. Garage.

Folkestone Office 01303 250757


FOLKESTONE £189,995

Four bedroom terrace home. Lounge and dining room. Garage. Popular Cheriton area.

Folkestone Office 01303 250757


FOLKESTONE £204,995

Three bedroom semi detached home. Lounge/diner. Kitchen. Bathroom. Landscaped rear garden. Garage. Driveway. Planning for ground floor extension.

Folkestone Office 01303 250757


WHITFIELD OIEO £130,000

NO CHAIN. 3 bedroom semi detached house. Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, bathroom, garden, driveway, garage, central heating and double glazing.

Kearsney Office 01304 823714


WHITFIELD OIEO £145,000

3 Bedroom Terraced House. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Conservatory, Ground Floor Bathroom and side access. 100ft garden and central heating.

Kearsney Office 01304 823714


WHITFIELD £149,995

3 Bedroom extended terraced house. Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Family Bathroom and a Garage. Front and rear gardens.

Kearsney Office 01304 823714


WHITFIELD £175,000

NO CHAIN. 4 bedroom house. Porch, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, family bathroom. Rear corner plot garden, garage, driveway, central heating and double glazing.

Kearsney Office 01304 823714


KEARSNEY OIEO £199,950

3 bedroom house. Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Downstairs WC, Kitchen, Utility Room. The first floor offers three double bedrooms and family bedroom. Central heating, garden.

Kearsney Office 01304 823714


TEMPLE EWELE OIEO £200,000

3 Bedroom Bungalow. Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Family Bathroom with separate WC. Rear plot approx. 1/3 acre backing onto woodlands. Garage & Off road parking.

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LYDD ON SEA £249,995

Three bedroom detached house with sea views. Lounge / diner, study, Kitchen / breakfast room, utility room, conservatory, garage and off road parking.

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GREATSTONE £169,995

Detached three bedroom chalet style bungalow with two receptions, conservatory overlooking the rear garden and off road parking.

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ST. MARYS BAY £149,995

Two bedroom semi-detached bungalow. Lounge to rear, modern kitchen and bathroom. Double glazing. Central heating. Garage en bloc. No chain.

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BRENZETT £239,995

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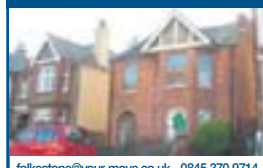
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- Superb renovation works
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FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02896**

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FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02483**

- Three bedroom house
- Two receptions
- No chain



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FOLKESTONE OFFICE **HFP02917**

- 2 x flats
- Currently rented @ £980/pcm
- No chain



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- Offers five x 1 bedroom flats and a studio flat
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- Rear garden
- Three storey



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- 3 bedroom house
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Easysgoing female, 32, enjoys shopping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLTW loving, caring white male 35-47 for long term loving relationship. Box 444214

AND THE SPARKS WILL FLY

Bubbly lively lady, 5'7", outgoing, 33, honest, reliable, looking for someone to get to know and see what happens. Sittingbourne. Box 449585

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

CHATHAM UP!

Pretty black female, 32, tall, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male, 34-47, for LTR. Chatham. Box 437778

FUN-LOVING FEMALE

Active, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTW intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

A NEW FUTURE!

I'm Rachel, 35, medium, enjoys pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, cinema, theme parks, looking someone special to share things with. Box 448591

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595

ON A ROLL!

Hi, I'm Alison, 36, 5ft5, single mum, loves swimming, roller skating and meeting new people, looking for a male for friendship, maybe leading to more. Box 448865

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Loving, caring, tactile female, 36, 5'8", blonde hair, blue eyes, N/S, GSOH, likes cinema, bowling, country pubs, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship and LTR. Box 827619

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium-large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term, serious relationship. Box 438102

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Good looking woman, 37, 5ft2, brown hair/eyes, 2 kids. Looking for new friends, and hopefully someone special. Box 446039

TRY ME

Ashford-based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring, and loving man. I have 2 kids, and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446965

FREE AD placement, call:

0808 156 5339

(Calls are free; mobile rates may vary; check with your provider)

COLLECT your messages:

0906 550 4335

(Calls cost £1/min; contact your service provider for details)

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 39yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walks, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship, relationship. Box 901893

EYES ON YOU

Hi I'm Jenny, 40, love reading/writing, going out, astrology, cars; seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more. Box 449181

THE SIMPLE THINGS...

I like reading/writing, going out, music. Seeking kind, genuine, honest chap; I'm a 40yr old woman who enjoys the simple things in life. Box 448542



A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTW a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

NO TIES

Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTW slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 443573

ANIMAL LOVER

Tall, slimish woman, I like horse riding, animals, cycling, country walks with the dogs, nights in/out. I'm 42, with brown hair/eyes. Box 448924

TOGETHER?

Slim lady, 42, 5ft9, long dark hair, loves walking her dogs, enjoys out doors, seeks gentleman to spend time with and get to know. Box 446861

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Hello, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box 444796

AIMING HIGH

6ft blonde aerobics instructor, female, 43, seeking decent, tall, fit male for companionship, hopefully leading to a relationship in my spare time (mainly afternoons). Box 446864

GOOD TIME GIRL

Outgoing young lady, 43, blonde hair blue eyes, 5ft4, works hard, loves socialising, partying, meeting new people...looking for similar male to enjoy happy times with. Box 449157

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES!

Single mum, 43, kind and devoted, likes walks, cinema, beaches and socialising, drinks and films, seeks similar man for lasting love. Box 449686

COUNTRY LASS SEARCHING FOR LOVE

Country-loving happy lady, 43, 5ft6, green eyes, long curly hair, good figure, looking for a genuine guy for a serious relationship and lasting happiness. Battle. Box 883723

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Honest, bubbly female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

BE WITH ME

Honest and caring female, 44yrs old, enjoys pubs, cinema, theatre and more, seeks a kind, caring gentleman for friendship & romance. Box 882419

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY

Bubbly female, 44, brunette, N/S, medium/large, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955

COME ON DOWN!

Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising; seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship/more. Box 882693

COULD IT BE YOU?

Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800

HI EVERYONE, I'M

Debbie, 46, slim, 5ft5, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for a man, 44-49, 5ft7+, with a nice appearance, preferably a N/S. Box 449422

SOUND GOOD?

Hi I'm Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, love reading/writing, going out, astrology, cars; seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more! Box 449186

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER

Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy. Box 442952

ENTERTAIN ME

Female, 50, medium build, blonde, quite short, seeking tall, confident, sensual guy for regular wining, dining, loving and laughter, must be honest, genuine and loving. Box 438854

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easy-going single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTW genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562

BE MY GUY

Young 50s lady, slim, 5ft4, fair hair, a smoker, loves music, going out, cooking, gardening, seeking similar loving, caring, honest male. Box 449288

HERE AND NOW

Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524

FOR KEEPS

Hi I'm Karen, 50, medium build, 5ft, separated, devoted mum, looking for friendship with someone who likes dining out, evening walks... Box 882618

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55, Hastings Box 417100

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...

Young looking, hard working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410

REPLY to an ad, call:

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REPLY by Text

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COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE

Curly & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTW similar loving male. Box 443642

A COMPANION FOR LIFE?

Blonde lady, 56, 5ft5, medium build, attractive, devoted mum, ready to start dating again and seeking male who loves travel, theatre, walks, cinema and more. Box 448449

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

HOLDING OUT FOR A HERO

London near to the area, 57, 5ft5, slim attractive blonde, seeking a man for serious relationship and lasting happiness. Box 449587

DREAMS OF YOU

Genuine, caring lady, late 50s, slim & young looking, looking for a loyal, considerate, N/S male for long term relationship. Box 446556

WALKS ALONG THE COAST

Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

HAPPY AS ME

Fun-to-be with, happy, contented lady (60), 5ft4, I enjoy theatre, dining out and having friends round for a meal, gardening and pets. Box 882812

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07746 738 788. Enter P2P

as subject.

MMS - standard network charges apply.

LOVING AND GENUINE

Female, early 60s, tall, slim, modern, young thinking & very adaptable to people, own house, loves animals, walking & eating out. Hastings. Box 440502

Women seeking women

IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS

I'm a 26yr old female, looking for new friends, maybe that special girl...let's have a meal and a drink and see what happens! Box 448722

LOVE TO LOVE

Easysgoing female, 40, blue eyes, blonde hair, medium build, likes wining, dining, socialising, holidays, walks cinema; seeking likewise female for companionship and more. Box 446953

FRIENDSHIP, HOPEFULLY MORE

Feminine woman, easysgoing, caring, 45, long brown hair, blue eyes, I love music, eating out, reading/writing, drives, weekends away. WLTW boyish female. Box 442848

STANDING ON OUR OWN FEET

Hi there, I'm a 42 year old male, 6ft, with brown hair/blue eyes, sincere, caring & thoughtful, OHAC, seeking female with independent mind for love. Box 884870

TO LOVE SOMEBODY

Loving, tactile, genuine, considerate male, 42, life of the party, loves swimming, music, cinema, reading, WLTW the girl to spend great times with... Box 449450

GET A GUY

Gentle male, 42, brown eyes, medium build, works hard, own place, seeking similar female, own place, hassles/ies, to enjoy cinema, conversation, eating out and more. Box 444952

THE PERFECT RELATIONSHIP?

Dad with great SOH, 29, 6ft, dark hair blue eyes, slim, loves music, cars, bikes and socialising, looking for girl for fun and more. Box 449334

FOR LOVE

Hard-working male, 29, 5ft10, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays harder! Likes going/eating out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking similar happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752

WORD FOR WORD

Honest, caring male, 35, 5ft11, short dark blond hair, blue eyes, med build, seeking loving, loyal, honest black female for fun, friendship and hopefully LTR. Box 448581

A DEVOTED DAD SPEAKS

Young guy who enjoys life, 36, likes wining/dining, music, movies and nights in, looking for someone to share my life with, hopefully more. Box 449502

NICE TO MEET YOU

Genuine single guy, 37, worked hard all my life now needs to play hard, seeking loving lady, to have loads of fun and more with. Box 449538

MAKE ME SMILE AGAIN

Seeking genuine lady, I'm a 38yr old male, 5ft8, dark hair/blue eyes. I work hard and play hard, would like to enjoy spare time with partner. Box 449649

HOP ON!

Hi, I'm Mark, 6ft, slim/medium build, lots of interests including motorcycles, WLTW a kind and honest female to share fun times and laughter with. Box 445124

EVERYTHING I DO

Lee, driver, 36yr old, 6ft3, dark hair, like pubs, clubs, wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, WLTW a woman for friendship and romance. Box 889723

TRUSTWORTHY

Margate man, 37, 6ft3, dark hair, nice big build. I work in residential care which I love. I'm down-to-earth, kind, tactile, with a GSOH. Box 423437

R U 4 ME?

Down-to-earth, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, cosiness, romance. Box 914917

ROMANCE, COMPANIONSHIP?

Me, 39, 5ft6, blond hair, blue eyes, hard working, friendly, loves films and music, sports, football, karate...WLTW nice, slim, attractive lady for meals and more. Box 449167

FOR

Divorced devoted dad, 39, into motorbikes, bikes, football, socialising, travel; seeks similar woman with good heart for potential romance. Box 448687

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Art-loving 40yr old, 5ft9, brown hair/eyes, into motorbikes and thrill-seeking, looking for a trustworthy female for friendship to start off with, then who knows? Box 448928

LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR

Outgoing, young-minded male, 47, smoker, likes cars, games, books, cinema, castles, places of interest, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Box 443750

THE FIRST STEP...

Attractive mixed race male, 41, 5'10", likes chatting, travel and music. Looking for a female in the Kent or London areas. Box 882345

THE WIND BENEATH YOUR WINGS

Guy of 40, outgoing, fun, tall, told I'm handsome, easysgoing, looking to meet a nice, attractive lady to sweep off her feet. Box 883676

MAKE IT A LOVELY DAY

Hi, I'm Carl, 40, GSOH, 6ft, light green eyes, brown hair, looking for a fun, bubbly woman to share laughs, days out and much more. Box 436696

STANDING ON OUR OWN FEET

Hi there, I'm a 42 year old male, 6ft, with brown hair/blue eyes, sincere, caring & thoughtful, OHAC, seeking female with independent mind for love. Box 884870

TO LOVE SOMEBODY

Loving, tactile, genuine, considerate male, 42, life of the party, loves swimming, music, cinema, reading, WLTW the girl to spend great times with... Box 449450

GET A GUY

MOTORS NEWS



New car gives Insight into a hybrid future

HONDA opens a new front in the hybrid war in April with the all-new Insight, billed as a Ford Focus class hybrid at a conventional price.

The Insight (from £15,490) undercuts the rival Toyota Prius significantly and attacks up-spec or 'eco' versions of the Ford Focus and VW Golf.

Honda says experience has shown where savings can be cut yet the car is generously equipped, qualifies for the lowest company car Benefit in Kind bracket and caters for buyers' desire to 'go green'.



Mitsi's Ralliart 'pocket rocket' all ready to fly

MITSUBISHI has had another crack at creating a cut-price 'pocket rocket' – a hot hatch version of its heavily revamped Colt supermini.

The new Ralliart (from £12,049) features the 'Jet Fighter' nose from the new Mitsubishi Lancer and is also available as a five-door (£12,549) as well as a three.

But it is on the road where advantages show over the old model; the 147bhp 1.5-litre turbocharged Ralliart's revised chassis and steering is far superior.

It just needs more 'hot hatch' branding.



Seat's 'back to black' offer is pretty special

COLOUR always plays a big part in marketing for Seat.

Having made red, yellow and white popular again for performance models, the Spanish marque is championing black with the Ibiza Black special based on the five-door 1.4 Sport variant, including air con and electric windows all round.

Extras include unique front and rear bumpers, side skirts, tailgate roof spoiler, and black metallic paint – all for £12,345 and featuring a lively 83bhp 1.4-litre petrol engine with five-speed manual gearbox.



ZOOM-ZOOM IMAGE: The latest Mazda2 has learned an important lesson from its Mark I predecessor by staying away from MPV styling and being sleeker and more aerodynamic

Mazda2 Mark II standing out from supermini crowd

THERE'S not much scope for grand styling within the compact dimensions of a supermini.

So the latest Mazda2 makes a refreshing change, but the Japanese marque learned the hard way how supermini buyers crave style as well as practicality; the original Mazda2 drove well enough, but erred too much towards MPV styling to be a big seller.

The current low slung, lightweight and aerodynamic three/five-door '2' (from £8,899) better suits the brand's 'Zoom-Zoom' image.

Slinky lines are not let down by the drive either; a slick gearbox and lively engines mated with a neat and tidy chassis, balancing good grip and steering with a decent ride, makes the '2' one of those rare cars that you can enjoy without a masses of power.

This bodes well for an almost obligatory hot model later on to wear the wide stripes with which you can already customise your Mazda2.

And it underlines the appeal of even our £9,399 TS five-door entry model. In its lower (74bhp) state of tune the 1.3 petrol engine is still lively but, having driven all but the 1.4 diesel engine, I would urge you to go for the

ROAD TEST MAZDA2

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

extra power of the 85bhp TS2 model without going the whole way to the 102bhp 1.5-litre petrol Sport (£11,799).

The 1.5 is lively alright, but does not bring much more to the party in return for costing £2,000 more than our favourite.

One thing all versions have in common though is their eco-friendliness – the Mazda2 is much lighter than its predecessor and most rivals, which means lower emissions and better fuel consumption.

The Mazda is well-equipped as standard: electric front windows, driver seat height adjustment, MP3 compatible CD radio with auxiliary jack and electric door mirrors.

The interior is also spacious and airy due to a relatively long wheelbase and low window line, while the dashboard is smart and well-arranged, with the high-mounted gearshift falling nicely to hand for a sporty drive.

The seats are comfortable for this class too, though Mazda has cut some corners with the quality and feel of cabin materials, while extra interior space, comfort and style may have been bought at the expense of the boot, 250 litres being shy of the 285-ish benchmark set by top-selling rivals.



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Chevrolet range fuel consumption in mpg (L/100 km), urban 40.9 (6.9) to 26.4 (10.7), extra urban 67.3 (4.2) to 38.7 (7.3), combined 54.3 (5.2) to 32.8 (8.6) the official co2 emission is 119 to 225 g/km.



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USED CHEVROLET

		OUR PRICE	CASH BACK
07 07	MATIZ SE Choice of Colours	£3995	NIL
07 57	MATIZ 1.0 SE 5DR Metallic Silver, A/C, PAS, E/Windows	£4995	£495
07 07	KALOS 1.4 SX 5DR Silver Metallic, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking	£5995	£1000
08 58	MATIZ SE AUTO Yellow, Alloys, PAS, Electric Pack	£6995	NIL
08 58	AVEO 1.2 LS 5DR Black Metallic, A/C, E/Windows, C/Locking	£7995	£1000
06 06	LACETTI 1.6 SX AUTO A/C Alloys, Imperial Blue Metallic	£5995	£1000
07 07	LACETTI 1.8 CDX 4DR AUTO Silver/Green Met, Climate, Alloys, E/Windows, Multi CD	£7995	£2000
08 08	LACETTI 1.6 SX ESTATE Silver Metallic, A/C, E/Windows, C/Locking	£8995	£1000
08 58	TACUMA 1.6 SX MPV Grey Met, A/C, E/Windows	£9995	£2000
08 08	EPICA LS TD Grey Metallic, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking	£11995	£2000
07 07	CAPTIVA LT TO AWD 75T AUTO Black Met, A/C Alloys, E/Windows, Parking Sensors	£14995	£2500
08 58	EPICA LT TO AUTO Silver Met, Climate Cruise, E/Windows, Parking Sensors, Multi CD	£16995	£1000
08 58	CAPTIVA LS TO FWD Silver Met, A/C Alloys, E/Windows	£16995	£1000

USED VOLKSWAGEN

		OUR PRICE	CASH BACK
04 53	GOLF 1.6 FE Black, Air Con, Alloys	£6995	£1000
04 54	GOLF 1.6 SE Black, Air Con, Alloys, Cruise	£7995	£1000
04 54	GOLF 2.0 GT TDI 140PS Climate, Alloys, Park Distance	£8495	NIL
USED OTHER MAKES			
05 05	RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE Metallic Blue, Air Con, Alloys	£5995	£1000
05 55	MITSUBISHI COLT 5DR 1.3 EQUIPPE Silver Met, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows	£5995	£1000
06 05	PEUGEOT PARTNER 1.4 TOTEM Silver Met, PAS, E/Windows	£5995	£495
04 54	MAZDA 3 5DR TS AUTO Blue Metallic, A/C, PAS, E/Windows, C/Locking	£6795	£800
06 06	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S Grey, A/C, E/Windows, C/Locking, Alloys	£6995	£1000
05 55	HYUNDAI COUPE 1.6 SX Red, Half Leather, A/C, PAS, E/Windows, Alloys, C/Locking	£6995	£1000
07 07	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIFE A/C 3DR Silver, Electric Windows, Central Locking	£6995	£1000
04 54	AUDI A3 SPORT FSI Black, Climate Control, Alloys	£8995	NIL
05 55	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 CABRIO DYNAMIQUE Cold, Air Con, Panoramic Roof, Alloys, Electric Roof	£8995	£1000

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PEUGEOT

PEUGEOT

USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

FRENCH FAMILY HATCHBACKS

IN a market sector where products are increasingly alike, French motor manufacturers tend to create highly individual rivals to the big-selling Ford Focus. Where Gallic contenders do harmonise is with chic and distinctive interiors, good turbodiesel engine options and ride comfort – a response to rural tracks and the cobbled streets that still criss-cross many city centres in France. This is not to everyone's taste though, so our trio can be very affordable too in a used car market that saw prices tumble drastically in late 2008.

carsforrent.co.uk

RENAULT MEGANE



RENAULT'S second generation Mégane arrived in late 2002 and proclaimed that, unlike its predecessor, it would look and stay fresh for the full production run – it still looks good against its recent successor. The now famous rear end 'bustle' made the car stand out and buyers flocked to Renault's mid-range model despite the feature costing load space. Apart from a sassy image it offers good diesels, safety, low running costs and scorching Renaultsport versions (pictured).

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

CITROËN C4



LIKE Renault, Citroën really needed to pull something special from the hat for its current family hatch. As a result, the C4 is a far better car than the horribly Xsara that it replaced and Citroën has given the five and three-door models a different look each; the former is sleek, futuristic and stylish while the latter has rakish coupé lines. However, both ride beautifully and share a radical and interesting interior without the irritating quirkiness of old-style Citroëns.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

PEUGEOT 307



PEUGEOT used to trump its French rivals in this sector, but faces tougher players now. The 307, launched in 2001 and replaced in 2007, saw Peugeot acknowledge the trend towards MPV styling, opting for a high roofline, while still offering a conventional estate and MPV-like SW alternative (pictured). Along with the original three and five-door hatchbacks and a coupé cabriolet, the 307 has all the bases covered, a fine choice of turbodiesels and cheaper used prices.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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07 07 Renault Megane 1.6 VVT Dymanique 5dr
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Save £511* Our Price £6,499



04 54 Vauxhall Astra 1.7 CDTi 16v SRi (100) 5dr
Parker's Price £6,395
Save £396* Our Price £5,999



07 07 Peugeot 307 CC 2.0 S 2dr
Parker's Price £9,255
Save £1,256* Our Price £7,999



08 57 Vauxhall Vectra 1.8 VVT Design 5dr
Parker's Price £7,500
Save £201* Our Price £7,299



07 07 Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi 115 LX 5dr
Parker's Price £7,395
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05 55 Citroen Picasso 1.6 HDi 92 Exclusive 5dr
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Final payment*	£3,057.25	Excess mileage charge per mile	14.9p
Total amount payable	£7,932.45	APR	11.9%

*A £195 Credit Facility Fee is included in the first monthly payment.
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*The saving shown is against Parker's franchise retail price for a nearest mileage and specification match. Prices compared against dealer franchise. †Selected vehicles within APC Ltd group stock are cheaper than Parker's franchise retail price for a nearest mileage and specification match. Waters AutoPlanet are licensed credit brokers and are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Written details available upon request. Finance is subject to status, guarantees/indemnities may be required. Cars shown for illustrative purposes only. All prices correct at time of going to press. Monthly payment options available on all cars. Written quotations on request, subject to status, applicants must be over 18. In most cases the customer may not be the 1st registered owner on the registration documents. Address: 1 Lea Valley Road, Chingford, London, E4 7PX.

ALFA ROMEO

146 TI, 5 door, p 1996, a car that will one day become a collectors item. thic car is a 2 owner from new with full service history mainly main dealer, red, 94000 miles, £1495, Courtenay Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

AUDI

A4, 1.8T S Line Saloon 4d 1781cc (2004), m04thik, climate control, abs braking system, alloy wheels, remote locking, half leather interior, electric windows & mirrors, alarm / immobilizer, radio / cd, power steering, height adjustable steering wheel, front & side airbags. baick metallic, 88600 miles, £10995, E-SSURED Cars UK, Broadstairs, 0845 6447751 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

AVEO, LT, hu58xgc, 15" alloys, silver, 1900 miles, £8995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

MATIZ, 1.0 SE+ Hatchback 5dr 995cc, 56/2006, a/con radio/cd player electric windows pas abs central locking, metallic blue, 14, 000 miles, £4995, Chertton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C3, 1.4i 16V Cachet 5dr, 2008, 1.4i 16v cachet 5dr hatch special edition, blue, 5000 miles, £9995, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

C4, 1.6 HDI 16V Cachet 5dr [92], 2008, 1.6 hdi 16v cachet 5dr [92] hatch sp eds, grey, 6000 miles, £11495, Barretts Citroen, Canterbury, 0845 3709768 (TRADE)

FIAT

PUNTO, Mia 3dr, ax03 bwh, power steering, air bag, radio cassette, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, black, 50900 miles, £2995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

PUNTO, Active Sport 3dr, cx03 ole, power steering, central locking, twin air bags, radio cassette, electric front windows, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, sports seats, rear wash/wipe, alloy wheels, blue, 49900 miles, £3295, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, Finesse 16v 3dr, ck03 xoe, rear wash/wipe, central locking, cloth upholstery, rear headrests, power steering, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, twin air bags, silver, 60200 miles, £3695, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 2005, blue, 19087 miles, £4995, FGBarnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 2007, blue, 10556 miles, £5495, FGBarnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

X-TYPE, 2.5 V6 SE Saloon 4d 2495cc, £2 2002, 1 owner, service history, electric windows, central locking, power assisted steering, cruises control, 6 stack, cd syste, front and rear heated screens, air bags, abs, front fog lamps, alloy wheels, immaculate condition, ivory leather trim, gold, 19000 miles, £10995, Westbrook Cars, Canterbury, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

KIA

PICANTO, 1.1 Zip+ 5dr (2006 - 2006), 27/09/2006, silver, 17381 miles, £5000, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PICANTO, 1.1 Chill, 2008, delivery mileage, black, miles, £6995, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

MAZDA

MX5, Convertible, 1992 (k), 92 (k) mazda mx5 euros sports convertible, stunning metallic silver coachwork with contrasting black sports trim, beautiful condition, metallic silver, low mileage miles, £2695, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

A CLASS, A150 Classic SE Lwb 5dr, ck56nz, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, abs, multiple airbags, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, cruise control, alloy wheels, blue, 2000 miles, £9995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

A CLASS, A150 Classic SE Lwb 5dr, **A180 CDI**, Classic SE Manual 5 DR Classic SE, 2006, horizon blue, 47921 miles, £9200, Mercedes-Benz of Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A180 CDI, Classic SE Auto 5 DR Classic SE, 2006, polar silver metallic, 18945 miles, £2998, Mercedes-Benz of Canterbury, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER S, 1.6 3 dr, 2002, trim: cloth engine size: 1600 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, blue, 42000 miles, £9395, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

COOPER S, John Cooper Works 210, immobiliser, remote central locking, colour coded interior, half leather, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, 17" alloys, metallic grey, 63000 miles, £7990, Air Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

CARISMA, Equippe Exe 5dr, 6863079, air conditioning, power steering, twin air bags, cloth upholstery, cd player, radio, electric front windows, electric mirrors, adjustable steering column, height adjustable seat, abs, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, central locking, alloy wheels, silver, 42600 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

NISSAN

PRIMERA, SX dCi 1dr, bj05 axx, air conditioning, climate control, colour satnav, rain-sensing wipers, auto-dip rearview, cd player, radio, twin air bags, abs, power steering, remote central locking, remote alarm, centre armrest, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, front fog lamps, alloy wheels, grey, 59300 miles, £4995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

206, S SW, af54 vko, remote central locking, remote alarm, roof rails, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, electric front windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, radio, twin air bags, abs, power steering, blue, 48200 miles, £4995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

206, 1.1 8v Fever Hatchback 3d 1124cc (2004), 53, silver, miles, £3299, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

207, Sport Coupe Cabriolet, In08umb, central locking, immobiliser, air conditioning, abs, multiple airbags, power hood, power steering, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, cd player, alloy wheels, aluminium silver, 2000 miles, £12495, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

207, SE Premium 5dr, ek08ugr, black, 999 miles, £10995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

207 CC, 2008, blue, 9000 miles, £10995, FGBarnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

SEAT

IBIZA, Formula Sport 1.4 100PS 3dr, sept 2007 g157znc, this vehicle is pre-registered with delivery mileage only, one previous keeper, full seat service history, radio/cd player, tinted glass, rear wash/wipe, adj, steering column, seat height adjuster, sports seats, split rear seats, alloy wheels, brisa blue metallic, delivery mileage miles, £8, 345, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

YARIS, CDX 5dr auto, y717lgu, immobiliser, central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, radio, 14" alloys, eclipse black, 35000 miles, £3999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

YARIS, 1.3 VVT-i Colour Collection 3dr, 2005, 1.3 vvt-i colour collection 3dr hatch special eds, silver, 41000 miles, £5695, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

FORD PUMA 1.4 16 V

3dr Hatchback, S Reg, Black. Recently had new tyres, exhaust discs, pads & cambelt, Air-con, c/locking, ABS, Drivers airbag Good condition inside and out 116,000 miles £2100 ono DEAL AREA Tel: 07969 312151

YARIS, T3 VVT-i 3dr, g103lck, remote central locking, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, carlo blue, 46000 miles, £3999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

ASTRA, Club, 52000 miles, £3695, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

ASTRA, 1.7 CDTI LS With Sat Nav & Air Con, 3220182, remote central locking, sat nav, white, 56000 miles, £4000, Clearways Commercial, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

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2002 52 SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 63,260 miles, Steel Grey. ABS, Alloys, Cruise control, Heated seats, Full Electric pack, Park distance control, Remote locking, Side airbags, Sports seats, Traction control, Climate control, In Car Entertainment, Warranty, Leather upholstery, Met paintwork, Tinted glass **£5,495**

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02 (52) Renault Clio 1.4 Expression Automatic only 28,000 miles **£3,650**

02 (52) Peugeot 206 GLX 1.4 5 door in silver **£3,695**

01 (51) Renault Clio 1.2 dynamique 3 door **£3,495**

02 (51) Renault Megane Scenic 1.6 Authentique, 5 door only 35,000 miles from new, full service history, must be seen **£3,250**

00 (X) Volvo S80 2.4 auto 4dr, Only 1, owner, very high spec leather seats, aircon, elec s/r service history, 61000 miles **£2,995**

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Senior & General Appointments 40-43

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For an informal discussion of the above posts please contact David Hayter, Operations Manager, KCA Psychological Therapy Providers on 01795 590212.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from <http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html> or email recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 552.

Closing date: Monday 9 March 2009.

Interview date: TBA.

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Deal Town Council

Town Hall, High Street, Deal, Kent CT14 6BB Tel No: 01304 361999

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12 noon Friday 20 March 2009 – Interviews will be on the morning of Friday 27 March 2009

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Applications with full CV to be sent to Mrs. S. Barlow, HR Manager, GSE Group, Joshna House, Crowbridge Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 0GR or sue.barlow@gse-group.com.

Closing date 11 March 2009. No Agencies please

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Closing date: 12th March 2009

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Completed applications by: 5 March 2009.

Sites Project Manager x2 (*) ()

Band 8a: £37,106 - £44,527 per annum **Ref: 767-EMY897**
Trinity House, Eureka Business Park, Ashford

Your focus will be on supporting the development of the Sites and Facilities Management services, providing expert project management to a range of Estates-focused activities. In particular, you will develop robust systems and processes for the acquisition of new premises, as well as link with Heads of Service and lead clinicians to devise Estate solutions to meet service and clinical needs. You will also act as a source of expert specialist and professional Sites & Building related advice.

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For an informal chat call David Ambrose on 01223 667705.

Completed applications by: 12 March 2009.

Senior Physiotherapy Assistant (*) ()

Band 4: £17,316 - £20,818 per annum pro rata **Ref: 767-EKB894**
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Closing date: 12 March 2009.

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Please ensure that you check your NHS Jobs account regularly in order to see if you have been successful in obtaining an interview.

(*) Employment in this post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau () Car owner/driver essential, subject to the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)

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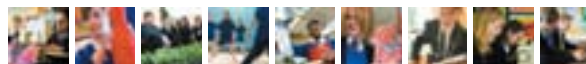
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For further information please contact the Human Resources Department on 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone), email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or visit www.southkent.ac.uk. Please submit a CV in the first instance, with a covering letter detailing which specialism you are interested in applying for.

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment. Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.



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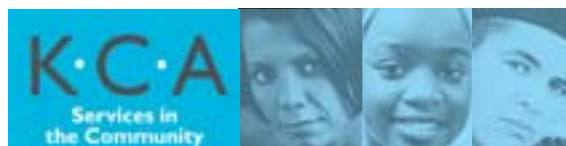
For further information and an application form email recruitment@kca.org.uk or write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Alternatively, call 01795 590635. Please quote ref: 553

Closing date: 13 March 2009.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

'Human capital' seen as key to firms' efficiency

ATTRACTING and retaining skilled employees is now seen as the most important source of using trade resources efficiently for UK businesses, according to new research.

In a poll of almost 200 senior executives, 83 per cent felt that in light of the current skills shortage, human capital was the key factor in having an edge over their competitors.

The survey, conducted for professional services group KPMG by Opinion Leader Research, found that the current skills shortage was the most pressing issue facing British organisations.

Kathy Lloyd, head of people services at KPMG in Kent, said: "The success of the UK increasingly relies on our ability to function as a highly skilled, hi-tech economy and employers are right to be concerned about the difficulty in finding staff equipped with both basic and more advanced skills."

According to the survey results, nearly three-quarters (74 per cent) of companies surveyed felt that the UK fell short in terms of skills, particularly literacy and numeracy.

Staff retention was cited as the second key people-issue that UK firms expect to face in the future and businesses are considering a raft of measures to counter this.

Most popular of these would be training and development (62 per cent), finding ways to retain top performers (61 per cent) and leadership development (59 per cent).

Women's Day invitation

SOUTH East businesswomen have been invited to a lunch on Thursday, March 12, to mark International Women's Day.

Organised as part of the South East England Development Agency (Seeda) Women's Enterprise Ambassadors Network, the speaker will be Caroline Marsh, who recently took part in Channel 4's Secret Millionaire series.

The lunch is at Nutfield Priory, Redhill. International Women's Day is a global event to mark the social, political and economic achievements of women.

Phone Joanna Brown at Prowse & Company on 01372 373386 or email joanna@prorowse.co.uk.

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Julie Maddocks asks: "In business, is small really beautiful?" Search 'crunch'

Act now to sustain a healthy bottom line

■ BY TONY PATEY

BUSINESS chiefs have been told to grasp the nettle and embrace sustainable commercial activity - or face the Government imposing regulations upon them.

An audience of high-powered county businesspeople were at last week's Institute of Directors/Business Link breakfast on sustainability in business.

David Boomer, head of energy efficiency and climate change at the IoD, said: "Sustainability is a business agenda which has been coming of age for some time, but it has to be a fundamental part of business."

"You can't talk about it without energy efficiency and climate change. The UK, for the future, has a huge skills gap. We need innovative sustainable skills with clear leadership and investment."

"If business doesn't respond, Government will regulate. We need to develop business and skills capacity."

He was speaking at the conference centre in Sittingbourne's Kent Science Park, a fitting venue because the park's senior management, led by director James Speck, is also keen to develop skills for the area and beyond.

He was introduced by Kent IoD chairman Frazer Thompson, who said: "Sustainability is something we can do without sacrificing winning new business."

Mr Thompson runs the Chapel Down wines group at Tenterden and he said it recently took a look at its own carbon footprint - and a half was in the wooden posts in the vineyard. They have since been swapped for metal ones.

Andrew Fletcher, managing director of Carbon Control energy conservation company, said: "From speaking to many business owners and managers it became apparent to me that businesses are in fact concerned about



SEE THE LIGHT: Sustainability and hi-tech skills are essential to the UK's future prosperity, delegates were told

reducing their energy consumption, costs and increasing their sustainability. However they sometimes lack the knowledge, expertise and time to tackle these issues."

He said businesses could access national and local grants - as well as support such as the Carbon Trust's interest-free loans - and they should also check out enhanced capital allowance schemes.

Erica Russell, Business Link's market development manager (sustainable business) said a company's green credentials should encompass its issues with energy, water, waste, raw materials, legislation and transport.

Paul Anderson, who runs Stone Circle Livery between Woodchurch and High Halden, which claims to be the UK's first and

only fully organic livery yard, gave a mini case study and stressed the need to be committed, determined and innovative.

High quality commands a premium rate and with the credit squeeze some customers left and a long waiting list vanished, he said.

However, he increased his rates but also increased the amount he had been setting aside for environmental improvements from each customer as well.

"Nothing happened - then the emails started to come through. It was a very worrying moment for us."

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ON TARGET: Mo Takaloo (pictured) helped Hythe on their way to another three points

Town take three points and top spot

FOOTBALL

Hythe Town 3 Slade Green 0

AN EXCELLENT second-half display saw Hythe Town comfortably beat Slade Green and return to the top of the Kent League Premier Division on Saturday.

With leaders Holmesdale not playing, the 3-0 victory at Reachfields was enough for Hythe to leapfrog them back to the summit and made amends for a midweek defeat at Deal Town.

After a goalless first 45 minutes, Mo Takaloo made the breakthrough just on the hour mark for his fourth goal in five games. Within two minutes the game was virtually beyond Green when Jason Brazier struck to give Town a two-goal cushion.

Roy Guiver gave the scoreline an added flourish with Town's third goal 15 minutes from time.

The game also saw the long-awaited return of Buster Smissen, who bagged an incredible 47 goals last season but has been ruled out for most of this campaign with a knee injury.

Hythe are hoping for a big crowd for this Saturday's game against Tunbridge Wells, with ticket prices slashed to just £1.

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KOS Media go behind the scenes at the Brands Hatch 2009 launch day



HEADACHE: Folkestone Invicta manager Neil Cugley (left) was left a worried man after the draw against Corinthian-Casuals despite an excellent equaliser from Darren Smith (right)



Invicta make a point but squad is stretched to limit

FOOTBALL

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Corinthian-Casuals 1

Nwoko 25

Folkestone Invicta 1

Smith 27

The injury problems meant that, despite his side controlling much of the second half, Cugley was satisfied with a point against a side in the relegation zone.

He said: "I suppose it was two points dropped in some ways, but by the end I was fairly happy to take something from the game."

"If we had taken one of our other chances I felt we would have gone on to win the game, but we didn't hit the target."

Darren Smith's excellent free-kick midway through the first half earned the point, cancelling out the hosts' opener two minutes earlier. Dryden, Micheal Everitt and Jon Driscoll all had half-chances in a 20-minute spell after the

Folkestone Invicta starting XI



Subs used: Driscoll (J Everitt 2)

break, but none could find the breakthrough. The draw, following last Tuesday's 2-0 win at Walton & Hersham, lifted Folkestone into the Ryman South's top half ahead of last night's games.

Title-chasing Cray are likely to pose a stern test this weekend, especially with Invicta lacking confidence in recent home games, but Cugley believes their opponents' position could help his side.

He said: "We've struggled to break down lower sides at home who have set up defensively. Cray will be coming to win the game, so maybe we will be able to counter-attack more."



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Hughes comes on to keep Dover title push on track

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

Dover Athletic 2

Browning 6, Hughes 77

Canvey Island 1

Curran 54



A LATE goal from super-sub Jerahl Hughes helped Dover Athletic to another home win as they continued their relentless march towards the Ryman Premier League title.

After a scrappy opening spell, Dover showed their attacking credentials by taking the lead with a well-worked goal on six minutes.

The lively Matt Bodkin broke down the wing and pulled the ball back into the area to find Lee Browning, who poked the ball past Canvey goalkeeper Ricky Wiseman.

Both sides found it hard to create clear-cut goal-scoring opportunities, but Dover's defence had to be alert on 12 minutes.

Canvey winger Gabriel Fanibuyan broke into the Dover area and was about to pull the trigger when a smart sliding tackle from Laurence Ball helped Dover clear their lines.

Most of the half was played in the midfield area as the sides cancelled each other out.



LATE WINNER: Substitute Jerahl Hughes secured the three points for Dover with a classy late goal at Crabble

However, just after the half-hour Canvey almost found an equaliser with a stunning free-kick on the edge of the penalty area.

Richard Hallie's strike had Dover keeper

Dover Athletic starting XI



Subs used: Jones (Bodkin 70) Hughes (Collin 70) Grazioli (Welford 60)

Preston Edwards beaten, but the ball crashed against the post and away to safety.

Dover made a shaky start to the second half and were punished on 56 minutes when Canvey equalised through John Curran.

A long ball found the striker in space and he produced a delicate chip which flew beyond Edwards into the top corner.

The Whites upped their game and came close to taking the lead just four minutes later when Olly Schulz headed over.

In a bid to inject some experience and pace into the attack, manager Andy Hessenthaler made three changes, throwing on Giuliano Grazioli, Sam Jones and Jerahl Hughes.

The changes worked as Dover took the lead in the 77th minute. Grazioli's cheeky back-heel on the edge of the area found the lively Hughes, who buried the ball in the bottom-left corner of the net.

With a victory for Staines against Carshalton, Dover's lead at the top of the Ryman Premier League remains 17 points.

FOOTBALL



Picture: SIMON HARRIS

ON THE BALL: Laurence Ball believes Dover's success is down to team spirit instilled by Andy Hessenthaler

It's been a Ball this season for Whites' stand-out defender

TEAM spirit has taken Dover Athletic to the brink of back-to-back promotions, according to defender Laurence Ball.

The Whites defender has been one of the stand-out players in Dover's quest for the Ryman Premier title this season, making 20 appearances and scoring four goals.

Dover boss Andy Hessenthaler has spoken highly of Ball this season, but the defender believes the whole team have played their part in the charge towards Conference South football.

Promotion

He said: "I have been really pleased by how it has gone for me this season. As a team we have done really well. At the start of the season the objective was promotion and everyone is pulling in the same direction. At the start of the campaign I wasn't playing and now I am, but it's not about me.

"We have a really good spirit in the team, everyone wants to do well and that has got us to the position we are in now. Hopefully with the same attitude it will take us where we want to go.

"I think the spirit gets us through games where we have had knocks and when things have not gone well. It is up to yourself on the pitch to stay together, keep a cool head and not get carried away."

With Dover 17 points clear at the top, Ball admitted promotion was in the players' minds, but he is focusing on the next game.

He said: "I work in an office, so sometimes when I get time I look at the tables. The manager and the coaching staff are really good at keeping us focused on the next game.

"Obviously promotion is in the back of the mind, but you don't get promoted if you do not concentrate on each game. As soon as you take your eye off the ball you'll get turned over."

Folkestone wish for that winning feeling

RUGBY

FOLKESTONE have the chance to put the pressure on the top three in London South East 4 on Saturday when they travel to Horsham.

Following three consecutive defeats, Folkestone have slipped out of the promotion race and are in desperate need for wins to stay in touch.

Folkestone, who are fourth in the league, have not recorded a win since a comfortable 37-10 success against Hastings & Bexhill last month.

This week's opponents Horsham go into the game off the back of a comfortable win also against Hastings & Bexhill. Two points for Folkestone could move them within touching distance of third position.

Former Folkestone rugby player and England women's captain Catherine Spencer guided her country to a 29-13 win against Ireland in the Six Nations on Friday.

After England's chances of a fourth consecutive grand slam evaporated with a defeat by Wales two weeks ago, Spencer's side returned to the top of the table as France thrashed Wales 27-5.



Picture: IOR KAPCO

PRESSURE: Folkestone Rugby hope win will put them back in the hunt in London South East 4



Picture: IOR KAPCO

CUP RUN: Dover's class eventually told as they booked their place in the next round of the Kent Cup

Super Sharks blitz Beccs with a second-half salvo

RUGBY

Beccehamians 0 Dover 41

exchanged and a number of changes made.

Dover became more coherent in the second half and in the last quarter scored four tries with some scintillating rugby, courtesy of Rocky Murray, Ben Sedgwick, Ricky Stanley and Mick O'Donnell. Three conversions were added to bolster the scoreline.

The highlight of the afternoon was Dover's coach Graham Tonks taking to the field for the last 10 minutes. This was his first appearance in a number of years.

Dover return to London 2 South action on Saturday when they host a high-flying Sidcup side.

FOUR second-half tries helped Dover progress to the next round of the Kent Cup with a comfortable win over lower-division opposition.

Beccehamians have often proved a difficult trip for Dover in their previous meetings and the home side, despite struggling in London South East 4, put up a typically spirited resistance.

Dover started well when Jack Tomlinson scored the opening try early on and Martyn Beaumont slotted the conversion superbly.

Beccs came back defiantly and for the remainder of the half Dover struggled to sustain any momentum in their play.

However, the Sharks kicked a penalty and Beaumont added to his tally with a try.

Despite the visitors having a healthy lead at the interval, a few harsh words were

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